

**PAN AMERICAN
TAEKWONDO UNION**

STATUTES
UPAT/PATU

**UNION PAN AMERICANA DE
TAEKWONDO**

THE WORLD TAEKWONDO FEDERATION

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ARTICLE 1 – NAME

The name of the organization is “Pan American Taekwondo Union,” also known as ‘PATU.’ (In Spanish the abbreviation is “UPAT.”)

ARTICLE 2 - OBJECTIVES

1. PATU is the regional Pan American organization officially recognized by the World Taekwondo Federation (W.T.F.).
2. PATU is the coordinating body of the sports activity of Taekwondo in the Pan American Region and it shall promote and develop the interest and participation of Taekwondo in the region.

ARTICLE 3 – LEGAL STATUS, HEADQUARTERS AND LANGUAGES

1. PATU is a civil, private and nonprofit organization that shall be governed by these Statutes. For all the effects of its legal status, the President shall obtain all the registers, authorizations and governmental recognitions of the country where it has its headquarters; this shall not impair the ability to obtain valid legal status in other countries.
2. The headquarters of PATU shall be located in the country of residence of its President.
3. The official language of PATU shall be Spanish and English. All official PATU communications shall be in the two languages.

ARTICLE 4 – BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS

1. To achieve the aims and directives expounded, PATU shall conduct, promote and sanction the following:
 - A. The Pan American Taekwondo Championship every two (2) years.
 - B. Sub-regional championships, according to the By-laws.
 - C. PATU Senior and Junior Open tournaments.
 - D. Seminars for referees and officials, coaches, directors and athletes.
 - E. The Pan American Cup.
 - F. Pan American Regional (Olympic Tryouts).
 - G. Developmental and implemental of an electronic scoring system for PATU tournaments to promote safety and impartiality.
 - H. Efforts to incorporate and maintain Taekwondo in all international sports events recognized by the IOC, WTF, PASO, ODECABE, ODESUR, ODEBO and other international sports organizations.
 - I. Other matters necessary for the development of Taekwondo in the Pan American area.

2. PATU shall be financed by membership dues, donations, subsidies and income from operational matters.
3. The fiscal period shall be each calendar year, commencing on January 1, and ending on December 31.

ARTICLE 5 – MEMBERS

1. Membership in PATU shall consist of only one national organization representing Taekwondo in the countries of the Pan American region affiliated with the WTF.
2. Members of WTF in good standing within the Pan American region will automatically become PATU members, subject to payment of PATU membership dues.
3. These Statutes shall protect all its members equally without discrimination.
4. Annual dues of \$75.00 shall be paid before the first day of March of each year. If it is impossible for a member to pay these dues due to unavoidable or extraordinary reasons, including force majeure, the Executive Council may reduce or postpone said payment.
5. Failure to pay the annual dues may be penalized by the Executive Council who may suspend the membership and the right to participate in all PATU activities. The Secretary General shall notify this action immediately to the suspended member. This notification shall be made by certified mail or by fax. On full payment of the debt, the Executive Council will evaluate the possibility to restore the suspended membership and if it is necessary the Council will elevate it to the General Assembly.
6. Members shall be responsible for providing the Office of the President their official address to which all official PATU documentation should be sent. The Office of the President shall then forward such addresses to the Secretary General.
7. PATU will be divided into four (4) Sub-Regions: Sub-Region 1 – North America; Sub-Region 2 – South America; Sub-Region 3 – Central America; Sub-Region 4 – the Caribbean. The Executive Council will determine which countries comprise the different sub-regions.
8. Any PATU member wishing to host an international event must notify the Executive Council of PATU.

ARTICLE 6 – GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. PATU shall be governed by a General Assembly made up of the delegates of the member countries and the officers of the Executive Council.
2. The General Assembly shall hold ordinary meeting every two (2) years during and at the site of the Pan American Championship. Should the Pan American Championship not be celebrated, the General Assembly shall hold its meeting in a place and on a date determined by the Executive Council. The notice of the meeting shall be sent out by certified mail or by fax at least ninety (90) days before the meeting.
3. The General assembly may hold special meetings at the request of the President, the majority of the Executive Council members, or one third (1/3) of the member countries. The Executive Council shall determine the day, time and place of the meeting within thirty (30) days of receiving the request.

- A. The date of this assembly meeting shall be set for between sixty (60) and ninety (90) days following the date of its approval by the Executive Council. The Secretary General shall send the notice to member countries, via certified mail or fax, within the thirty (30) days following said date of approval.
 - B. The petitioner of a special meeting shall justify the reasons for his/her request.
 - C. The reason for the request and the meeting agenda shall be included in the notice of the meeting.
 - D. Matters that are not included in the agenda shall not be discussed during the meeting.
4. The duties and powers of the General Assembly shall include:
- A. The election of officers.
 - B. The approval of amendment to the Statutes.
 - C. The approval of the budget and financial reports.
 - D. The approval of business and operations.
 - E. The approval of the place and date of the Pan American Championship.
 - F. Other matters of importance.
5. Each member country may send two (2) delegates to the General Assembly though one (1) shall have the right to be heard and vote. They shall present their official credentials, duly signed by the President of their national organization, to the Secretary General. Delegates shall be citizens of the country they represent.
6. Officers of the Executive Council may not be designated as delegates of any country.
7. Member countries who are unable to send a delegate to the General Assembly, may grant a proxy vote to a delegate from another member country, by means of a written document signed by its President. Only one proxy vote per delegate shall be allowed in each meeting. Officers of the Executive Council may not grant proxy votes in order to be represented as members of the Council at an Assembly meeting.
8. The quorum to conduct the General Assembly meeting shall consist of half (1/2) the member countries.
9. The simple majority of the votes present shall be required for the approval or rejection of resolutions and other decisions, except for those in which the Statutes require an extraordinary majority.
10. The election of officers for the Executive Council shall be by means of secret ballot.
11. The officers of the Executive Council elected by the General Assembly have the right to be heard and to vote in all matters of the General Assembly except in the election of officers of the Executive Council.
12. The minutes of each meeting of the General Assembly shall be sent to each member no later than ninety (90) days after the meeting.

ARTICLE 7 – EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1. The Executive Council is the body of PATU that shall develop the Statutory functions and those assigned by the General Assembly. As a result it shall:
 - A. Plan and manage the organization and operations of PATU
 - B. Prepare the budget and financial reports, and present the financial statement before the General Assembly every two (2) years.
 - C. Decide in matters that have to be resolved before the next General Assembly meeting.
 - D. Draft the outline of amendments and annulments to the Statutes, By-laws, and Rules and Regulations that are to be presented before the General Assembly.
 - E. Select the place and date, and prepare the agenda of the General Assembly meetings.
 - F. Appoint the temporary substitute for any officer of the Executive Council who has permanently withdrawn from this body, until his/her confirmation by the Assembly.
 - G. Appoint the auxiliaries of the Executive Council and PATU's special committees.
 - H. Provide its own Code of Operation.
2. The Executive Council shall be made up as follows:
 - A. Executive Committee Officers, and PATU Council Members.
 - B. Executive Committee Officers elected by the General Assembly:
 1. One (1) President
 2. One (1) Senior Vice-President
 3. Four (4) Vice-Presidents (One Vice-President for each Sub-Region).
The Vice-Presidents will be elected by the members of the General Assembly. Each Vice-President must be a citizen of PATU member nation in each respective region.
 4. One (1) Secretary General
 5. One (1) Treasurer
 6. One (1) Auditor
 - C. Six (6) PATU Council Members:

PATU Council Members shall be made up as follows;

 1. Four (4) members elected by the General Assembly
 2. Two (2) additional members to be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee Officers.

- D. Officers appointed by the Executive Council, who shall have voice but right to vote and who shall carry out the duties assigned to them by the Executive Council or the President.
 - E. One (1) Executive Director who shall be appointed by the president and who shall serve as a member of the Executive Council, with voice but without vote.
3. Officers shall be elected as individuals and not as representatives of member federations.
 4. The term of office shall be four (4) years and until the newly elected officers assume their positions. In the case of substitutions, the term of office of the substitute shall be for the remainder of the term of the substituted officer.
 5. All Executive Committee Officers and PATU Council members are Eligible for Re-Election.
 6. Nominations of candidates for officers shall reach the Secretariat of PATU ninety (90) days before elections. Only member nations may take nominations. For any election, no member can be nominated for more than one position in that election.
 7. PATU shall request the cooperation of the national federation members who have officers in the Executive Council in the payment of expenses incurred by the officers while carrying out his/her duties as an Executive Council member.
 8. The quorum to conduct meetings of the Executive Council shall be four (4). The decisions of the Executive Council shall be approved by simple majority.
 9. When there are urgent matters to be resolved by the Executive Council, the President may request a vote by mail and/or fax without the committee having to meet.
 10. The Executive Council shall be summoned by the President before and after the General Assembly meeting and whenever the President may deem it necessary.
 11. The Executive Council may delegate matters under its responsibility to the President.
 12. The Executive Council may appoint special committees to assist it when necessary.

ARTICLE 8 – PRESIDENT

1. The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of PATU and shall preside at all General Assembly and Executive Council meetings. In addition, he/she shall be empowered to cast an additional vote in the event of a tie.
2. The President shall be, ex officio, a non-voting member of all PATU committees.
3. The President shall act as PATU's representative to all international sports organizations, including the WTF, and shall perform such other functions as usually pertain to those of the presidents of other regional unions of WTF.
4. When unable to consult with members of the Executive Council on matters that require emergency measures, the President may resolve these. However, he/she must submit his/her decision to the Executive Council within the following thirty (30) days for its approval.
5. The President may appoint special committees to assist him/her when necessary.

6. The President shall appoint an Executive Director, who shall serve as a member of the Executive Council, with voice but without vote.

ARTICLE 9 – VICE-PRESIDENTS

The duties of the Vice-Presidents shall be:

1. Only Senior Vice –President will substitute for the President in the event of a temporary absence.
2. Develop all such activities as may be assigned to them by the President or the Executive Council.
3. Develop direct communications with the President and the rest of the Executive Council Members to supervise and oversee all PATU activities in their representing regions.

ARTICLE 10 – SECRETARY GENERAL

The duties of the Secretary General shall be:

1. Assist the President in all PATU matters that may be assigned to him/her and manage Secretariat affairs.
2. Submit reports to the General Assembly on the activities of the Secretariat.
3. Submit and distribute minutes of the meeting.
4. Keep copies of official documents of PATU and to forward originals of official documents of PATU to the Office of the President.
5. Summon members of PATU to meetings of the Executive Council, the General Assembly and other meetings.
6. Sign, with the President, the resolutions of the Executive Council and other documents

ARTICLE 11 – TREASURER

The treasurer shall be appointed by the President and shall have the following duties:

1. Assist the President in all matters that may be assigned to him and manage Treasury affairs.
2. Be responsible for the funds and books of account of PATU. He/She Shall receive and deposit the funds of PATU in such banks as shall be authorized by the Executive council. He/she shall disburse such funds in the manner authorized and directed by the Executive Council.
3. Render financial Reports to the General Assembly and whenever requested by the Executive Council or the President.

ARTICLE 12 – FINANCIAL AUDITOR

1. The Financial Auditor shall be elected by the Assembly and shall attend meetings of the Assembly and of the Executive Council only when summoned. The Auditor shall not have voting powers.
2. The Auditor will carry out annual audits of the statements of all financial matters related to PATU, shall render reports of the audits to the General Assembly and the Executive Council, and shall

recommend corrective measures.

ARTICLE 13 – AMENDMENT TO THE STATUTES

1. These Statutes may be amended, adopted or rejected only by the General Assembly. The Process for this action shall be:
 - A. The Executive Council by resolution shall present the project of proposed amendments. Said project may also be presented via a petition signed by the legal representatives of one third (1/3) of the member countries.
 - B. The resolution or request, along with the proposed amendments, shall be distributed to the members of the General Assembly, by certified mail or by fax, at least sixty (60) days prior to the meeting in which they are to be considered.
 - C. They shall be approved by the majority of two-thirds (2/3) of the votes of the members of the General Assembly present at the meeting.

ARTICLE 14 – BY-LAWS

1. In addition, to its Statutes, PATU shall have By-laws. These shall be adopted, amended or reformed by the simple majority of the votes cast at a General Assembly, as follows:
 - A. The proposals shall be presented at the General Assembly meeting providing a request and the proposals have been submitted to the Executive Council at least ninety (90) days before the meeting. The Executive Council shall decide whether to include them or not in the perspective agenda.
 - B. After the proposals have been approved, they shall not be modified in the same meeting, except by reconsideration if, in the Assembly's judgment, there are evident contradictions in the text or obvious inconsistencies.

ARTICLE 15 – MISCELLANEOUS

All matters that have not been addressed in the Statutes, shall be decided by the General Assembly, and in its absence, by the Executive Council.

ARTICLE 16 – EFFECTIVENESS

These Statutes shall govern the future, they shall go into effect from the time of the adjournment of the **Extra-ordinary General Assembly meeting held on October 04, 2005, in Oranjestad, Aruba** and they shall not affect the appointments or elections previous to their adoption.