

**World Taekwondo**  
**Global Membership System (GMS) Bylaws**  
**December 2020 Restatement**

(In effect as of December 14, 2020)

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## **INTRODUCTION (Overview)**

1.1 World Taekwondo's Mission is to govern, grow and promote Taekwondo throughout the world from grass roots to elite levels so that everyone may have the opportunity to play, watch and enjoy the sport regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or ability.

1.2 To advance its Mission, World Taekwondo has created the Global Membership System (hereinafter: "GMS").

1.3 The GMS is the official system used by World Taekwondo as: i) an online membership database of Taekwondo practitioners; ii) a platform with which WT can coordinate participation in official events and maintain certifications, achievements and other records; and iii) a set of tools for management that includes but is not limited to member, education and events.

1.4 World Taekwondo requires that all its Member National Associations (MNAs), Continental Unions (CUs), Organizing Committees (OCs) and/or other related entities implement the GMS.

1.5 The GMS Bylaws (these Bylaws), as amended from time to time, shall govern the implementation of the GMS system among all areas related, directly or indirectly, to World Taekwondo and its members.

## **WT MEMBERSHIP AND BENEFITS**

2.1 WT Membership. Everyone that participates in a taekwondo related event at any level must obtain a Membership. Taekwondo related events (the "Events") includes, but is not limited to any events such as, competitions, courses, educational activities conducted, sanctioned and/or promoted by an MNA, CU, OC and/or WT. The WT Membership allows an individual to register and participate in all Events for black belt and/or color belt registrations for all ages. The WT Membership can be upgraded to a WT Global Licence at any time for those who intend to participate in any WT recognized event.

2.2. WT Global Licence. A WT Global Licence is required for all athletes and officials who wish to participate in any WT recognized event.

2.3. There are different categories of WT Membership depending on the credentials necessary for each individual. WT Memberships are as follow:

a) Global Athlete Membership (GAM). The GAM is for any athlete/practitioner who registers in the GMS.

b) Global Official Membership (GOM). The GOM is for any officials such as coaches,

trainers, referees, medical staff, or any other individual that plays an official role according to its MNA.

c) Global Executive Membership (GEM). The GEM is for high level executives or VIPs of the MNA and CUs, such as board members, council members and sponsors. There are a limited number of Memberships as determined by WT.

d) Global Membership (GM). The GM is a catch all category for all individuals who do not fall under any of the above categories, such as service providers, technical support, volunteers, fans, media and parents.

2.4 In addition to managing memberships, the GMS is a platform that strives to facilitate access to World Taekwondo content by all its members. As part of the GMS value to its members, the GMS from time to time may partner with additional services to benefit those registered. Value added tools include but are not limited to: a) membership, event and competition management, b) results and rankings management, c) communication management, d) education and certification management, and/or e) club and organization management.

## **MEMBER NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

3.1 Member National Associations (MNAs) shall implement these Bylaws, as amended from time to time, as required by the WT Statutes (see Article 16.1 of the WT Statutes). A National GMS policy must be published in accordance with these bylaws.

3.2 MNAs must use the GMS registration tool for all MNA organized events and courses. This includes all black belt and color belt registrations of all ages.

3.3 All MNAs must abide by and have implemented the WT GMS Bylaws no later than December 31, 2021, and every year thereafter.

3.4 Each duly recognized MNA President must appoint one "National GMS Administrator." The MNA President may also appoint an "Assistant National GMS Administrators", however only the "National GMS Administrator will be responsible for communications with the WT GMS Team.

3.5 The National GMS Administrator will be the main contact person between the WT GMS Team and will be responsible for registering/renewing MNA members. Because English is the working language of WT, these administrators should be English speaking. If a WT GMS Team member speaks the native language of the MNA then they can communicate in that language at the discretion of the WT GMS Team.

3.6 The National GMS Administrator and any Assistant National GMS Administrator(s) shall understand and abide by WT GMS Policy.

3.7 An MNA may request the WT GMS Team to act (temporarily) as a National GMS Administrator for its territory. WT may in that case withhold a percentage of the revenues as compensation for operating as the MNA's National GMS Administrator.

3.8 The WT GMS Team is authorized to follow up or investigate any complaints received or suspicions of non-compliance and/or breaches of the WT GMS Bylaws. Pending the investigation, the WT may decide to revoke the administrative rights of the National and/or Assistant National GMS Administrator.

3.9 If an MNA is suspended by WT, the MNA's GMS Administrator(s) may remain authorized to administer the GMS system for the said territory at WT's sole discretion. In the alternative, the WT GMS Team may additionally act as a temporary National GMS Administrator or assign this right to an appropriate third-party at WT's sole discretion.

3.10 Each MNA must use one or several of the following registration avenues in addition to the National GMS Administrator.:

3.10.1 Regional GMS Administrator(s): This individual is responsible to register individuals at specific regions.

3.10.2 Club GMS Administrator(s): This individual is responsible to register individuals at specific clubs.

3.10.3 Individuals: Each person may register his or her own WT membership in the GMS.

3.11 If an MNA does not allow at least one of the registration avenues mentioned, in this Article 3, to register/renew WT memberships in the GMS, WT may open at its sole discretion the registration to the public.

## **CONTINENTAL UNIONS**

4.1 Continental Unions ("CU"): CUs are required to implement all WT GMS bylaws, as amended from time to time, in accordance with the WT Statutes (see Article 20.1 of the WT Statutes).

4.2 CUs must use the GMS event registration tool for all events and courses under the CU's scope for all black belt and color belt registrations of all ages . Events and courses include but are not limited to all CU recognized competitions and educational courses.

4.3 All CU must have implemented and abide by the WT GMS Bylaws no later than December 31, 2021, and every year thereafter.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF GMS POLICY**

5.1 WT GMS Bylaws, as amended from time to time, shall be implemented by CU's, MNA's, OC's and any other entity subject to it, in accordance with the principles below:

a) Fair and nondiscriminatory criteria. Implementation of the GMS policies shall not set unreasonable restrictions on membership. Policies shall have the objective of registering in the WT GMS as many possible individuals as possible.

b) Nonbiased appeal process. Implementation of the GMS policies shall include a process to challenge any denial of memberships. Denial of a membership should show good cause. Good cause is presumed the entity issuing the denial has undertaken a formal sanctioning process in line with the World Taekwondo dispute resolution process.

5.2 Each entity/organization abiding by the GMS Bylaws is responsible for ensuring that all individuals participating in any of its events has a GMS membership as part of the requirements for participation, including those individuals participating but not affiliated to an MNA.

## **ORGANIZING COMMITTEES**

6.1 Organizing Committees of any events organized by an MNA, CU, WT and/or entity subject to the GMS Bylaws are required to do the following:

a) Ensure that all participants hold a valid WT Membership by the start of the event; and

b) For WT recognized events, provide official results and participation list to the event's WT Technical Delegates within one (1) day of the completion of the event in an appropriate WT formatted document.

6.2 All athletes and officials (coaches, international referees, medical doctors, physiotherapists, executives, etc.) participating at a WT recognized, sanctioned or promoted event (G-

Ranked events) are required to have a WT Global Licence.

6.3 Onsite WT Membership Penalty Fee – Any individual renewing and/or registering their WT Membership onsite at any of the events may be charged an onsite penalty fee on top of the applicable WT Membership fee.

6.4 Country issuing the Membership. Any WT Global Licence issued to an athlete or official representing a national team or country must be issued by the MNA of the country that the athlete/official wishes to represent. Athletes participating as part of national teams must be citizens of the same nation. Citizenship should be demonstrated by valid passport, per the WT Competition Rules; if an athlete has no valid passport then another valid proof of citizenship must be provided subject to approval by the WT on a case-by-case basis.

6.5 Athletes can represent a club of their own choice at events other than WT and CU promoted events or events where they participate as a member of an MNA national team.

6.6 If the club is located in a country other than the issuing WT membership MNA, the GMS Administrator of that club may register the athlete for the aforementioned events.

6.7 All athletes and officials participating at a WT recognized, sanctioned or promoted event (G-Ranked events) must be registered with a WT Licence.

6.8 Complaints. Any complaints regarding registration of WT Memberships should be submitted to the GMS Team.

## **PRICING**

7.1 WT strives to make the pricing of WT Memberships affordable to all practitioners around the world. Pricing of WT Membership is calculated taking into consideration the Gross Domestic Product (“GDP”) ranking for each country as defined by the United Nations. Pricing details will be available to all MNAs and CU and are subject to adjustments determined by the WT. WT would only consider increasing the membership fees if our costs increase. At the time of publication, the memberships fees are as follows:

- a) WT Membership: The cost of a WT membership is 5 US dollars (5 Euro for Europe) a year per person, plus the cost determined by the MNA’s which shall not exceed 10 US dollars (10 Euro for Europe).
- b) WT Global Licence: The cost for any of the WT Global Licence is 27 US dollars (27 Euro for Europe) a year per person plus the cost determined by the MNA’s which shall not exceed 35 US dollars (35 Euros for Europe).
- c) Children’s Membership: The cost for a WT membership for children under 12 years

old is FREE. For Children's membership MNAs can only add a "Mark up" based on option 7.2b

d) Free MNAs: Some MNAs have the membership fee waived for all members based on their GDP ranking. Free MNAs can only add a "Mark up" based on option 7.2b

7.2 MNA fees added to WT Memberships ("Mark-up" Fees). There are two categories under which an MNA can add a fee to the WT Memberships:

a) MNA Basic Fee: an MNA may justify adding a charge to the WT Membership based on its work handling registrations and promotion of the WT GMS, as long as that fee does not exceed the limits set by the WT GMS policies; or

b) MNA Value Added Fee: an MNA may justify applying a higher additional cost to the WT Membership as long as it is proportional to a value of additional services provided to those individuals acquiring a WT Membership. The MNA must make it clear what separate and distinctive services/benefits it is providing.

c) In both cases, the cost of the MNA membership or benefit/services will be added to the total cost allowed, as long as, the price accurately reflects the cost of the membership or benefit/services provided by the MNA and is not unreasonable.

7.3 Any fees that the MNA wants to impose to the cost of obtaining WT Memberships must be approved by their governing body and must be reasonable to ensure the greatest number of participants can acquire them. The MNA must clearly describe in their policies any "Mark-up" Fees and may not change them without the approval of their governing body. MNA must provide WT with a copy of the mark-up fees adopted and update the WT of any changes.

<b>WT Membership Category</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>WT Membership Price</b> (To participate in events such as competitions, courses, educational activities under the scope of MNA's, CU's and/or WT)	<b>WT Global Licence Price</b> (To participate in any WT recognized, sanctioned or promoted Event)
Global Athlete Membership (GAM)*	Athletes/Practitioners	5 USD (5 EURO for Europe) / year / person	27 USD (27 EURO for Europe) / year / person
Global Official Membership (GOM)	officials such as coaches, trainers, referees, medical staff	5 USD (5 EURO for Europe) a year / person	27 USD (27 EURO for Europe) / year / person
Global Executive Membership (GEM)	High level executives or VIPs of the MNA and Cu's (board members, council members and sponsors)	FREE	
Global Membership (GM)	All other individuals such as volunteer, staff, media, fan		

\* No fee charged by WT for GAM for 11 years old and younger

## **OBTAINING A MEMBERSHIP**

8.1 Applicants must submit the required personal information and documents. It is the responsibility of the MNA to verify that the information provided for each application is accurate and complete.

8.2 The WT Global Licence is an upgrade from the WT Membership. Individuals may apply to more than one Membership. Athletes however may only have one active WT Global Athletes Membership (GAM) at a time.

8.3 A WT Global Licence is required to participate in WT recognized, sanctioned and promoted events. An MNA shall not restrain any individual in possession of a valid WT Global Licence from registering/or participating in any WT recognized events. The MNA has full discretion to determine participation criteria for local events at the national level.

8.4 WT Memberships are non-transferable between MNAs. An individual will need to apply for a new WT Membership for the new territory they wish to be a member of.

8.5 The GMS Team is authorized to add and register, change or process data of new and existing WT Membership holders without prior approval of the MNA.



## **REVOCACTION / SUSPENSION OF A MEMBERSHIP**

9.1 Any MNA and/or CU may request to revoke a WT Membership. In that case, the WT Disciplinary Code is applicable and its rules and regulations must be followed.

## **DATA PRIVACY**

10.1 Data Privacy. Each MNA and CU is required to ensure and warrant compliance with all applicable laws, rules and regulations governing the protection of each member's personal and/or sensitive information handled under the terms of these Bylaws. The WT reserves the right to require that each MNA and CU sign data protection agreements that can be modified and/or supplemented from time to time.

## **PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT**

11.1 MNAs and CU who fail to implement the WT GMS System according to these GMS Bylaws may be penalized with one or several of the following:

- a) Be unable to host any WT G Ranked Event or any WT recognized education course or meeting
- b) Be unable to qualify for the WT Development Fund
- c) Be suspended as a member of World Taekwondo

## **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

12.1 Interpretation. MNAs that need assistance in understanding or implementing these bylaws should contact their GMS Team representative.

12.2 Severability. Any determination that any provision of these Bylaws is for any reason inapplicable, illegal or ineffective shall not affect or invalidate any other provision of these Bylaws.

12.3 Amendments. These bylaws shall be amended from time-to-time in accordance with Article 8.2 of the WT Statutes and based on recommendations from the MRD Commission.