

ISF CODE

(As adopted September 18, 1952 with amendments through **2003**)

ARTICLE 1 NAME

- 1.01 The name of the organization shall be the International Softball Federation and henceforth will be referred to as the ISF or the Federation.
- 1.02 The Officers of the Federation shall be :
- a. A President
 - b. A First Vice President
 - c. Nine (9) regional Vice Presidents
 - d. A Secretary-General
 - e. An immediate past President
 - f. At large Executive Council members**
 - g. Any IOC member who holds an elected position in his or her country's softball Federation/Association, with the approval of the ISF Executive Council, may become a member of the ISF Executive Council during his or her term as the IOC Member and National Softball Federation elected office.**

- 1.03 For the purposes of the Federation, there shall be six (6) world regions known as:

Regions	Vice Presidents
a. Africa	One (1)
b. Asia	Two (2)
c. Europe	Two (2)
d. Central America, Caribbean, South America	Two (2)
e. North America	One (1)
f. Oceania	One (1)

- 1.04 The Executive Council of the Federation shall consist of Officers of the Federation. At least **30%** of its make-up will be female. If this quota is not made by election, the President, with approval of the existing Executive Council, may appoint additional females to meet this quota.

ARTICLE 2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.01 The objectives of the Federation shall be:
- a. To compile and subscribe to the policies, rules and regulations of the Federation governing international competition for men and women in the game of softball.
 - b. To ensure that all contests open to Associations/Federations shall be organized under the laws of the ISF.
 - c. To establish rules and regulations for, and to conduct softball competition at the Olympic Games and World Championships, **(including qualifying competitions for World Championships and Olympic Games).**
 - d. To encourage the development of all types of softball throughout all nations.**
 - e. The mutual recognition of all suspensions
 - f. To decide any dispute that may arise between countries federated which may be referred to by either country interested.
 - g. By participation in international competition to create and establish greater friendship and goodwill between nations.

ARTICLE 3 MEMBERSHIP

3.01 Membership regulations:

- a. The membership in this Federation shall be open to all nations which have a national governing body for softball, and which accept and agree to abide by the rules and regulations of this Federation.
- b. The jurisdiction of Associations/Federations is limited by the political boundaries of the country or territory they represent.
- c. Eligible associations/federations shall be admitted to membership upon written application and approval by the **Executive** Council, which, after investigation and receipt of payment of prescribed membership dues, shall submit said application to the Congress for ratification.
- d. Any new member may be admitted by a majority vote of Associations/Federations represented at the Congress.
- e. During the interim between sessions of the Congress, the Executive Council is empowered to elect provisionally such ruling bodies as it may deem necessary.
- f. Membership in this Federation may be terminated;
 1. By resignation duly accepted by the Federation.
 2. By failure to comply with rules and regulations of this Federation.
 3. Upon failure to pay membership dues.

ARTICLE 4 RECOGNITION

- 4.01 All Associations/Federations shall acknowledge each other as the only legislative authorities for softball in the respective countries, and as the only organizations authorized to regulate international agreements in softball. No discrimination is allowed against any country or person on the grounds of race, religion or political affiliation. Political interference by any government into the internal operation or function of a national governing body does not meet the spirit or objectives of the Federation.
- 4.02 All correspondence regarding international affairs shall pass through the Associations/Federations.
- 4.03 The Federation recognizes and claims jurisdiction over all games of softball, including but not limited to fast pitch, slow pitch, modified pitch and 16-inch slow pitch.

ARTICLE 5 MANAGEMENT

- 5.01 The management of this Federation shall be vested in the Congress of the ISF, which shall consist of one (1) a President, one (1) a First Vice President, nine (9) regional Vice Presidents, one (1) Secretary General, at large **Executive** Council members and two (2) representatives delegated by such Associations/Federations, all of whom shall have one (1) vote.
- 5.02 In cases where Associations/Federations send only one (1) delegate, he/she shall be entitled to two (2) votes.

- 5.03** Notice of the appointment of delegates must be furnished to the Secretary **General** prior to the meeting of the Congress, and such notification must be **signed by the President/Executive Director/Administrator/Secretary of the Association/Federation.**
- 5.04 The immediate past President of the Federation shall have one (1) vote at the meetings of the Congress of this Federation, whose vote shall be personal, and not transferable. Expense incurred to attend Congress meetings shall be borne by the ISF.
- 5.05 The Executive Council shall meet at least once every two (2) years, and its duties shall include:
- a. To elect provisionally to membership of this Federation any national governing bodies.
 - b. To consider any matter deferred by the Congress.
 - c. To organize and carry out all matters relating to Olympic Games and World Championships, **including qualifying competitions for World Championships and Olympic Games.**
 - d. To give a ruling on any matter pertaining to the rules of the Federation that may be referred to by any Association/Federation; such a ruling to be confirmed at the next meeting of Congress.
 - e. **To** administer the affairs of the Federation, inform the Associations/Federations of all penalties, settle all urgent affairs of general interest and prepare and summon the Congress, the venue and time of which have been decided by the preceding Congress.
 - f. **May** summon special Congresses, provided 25% of the current membership give notice in writing to the Secretary **General** that they desire such Congress and state their reasons for same. On receiving such notice, the Secretary **General** must summon the Congress to meet within three (3) months after receipt of said notice.
 - g. To add or amend the Technical and Procedural Code for World Championship and Olympic Games play where and only where, a situation arises in which such Code is found to be unworkable by the **Executive** Council.
 - h. Members of the **Executive** Council shall have the right to vote by mail.
 - i. **May appoint, on an annual basis, a Treasurer of the ISF.**
- 5.06 Executive Council meetings shall be subject to the following considerations:
- a. Except in emergencies, members of the Executive Council shall be notified forty-five (45) days in advance of any Executive Council meeting.
 - b. An emergency meeting shall not be an official meeting unless attended by the President or first Vice President and at least five (5) Vice Presidents.

ARTICLE 6 DISQUALIFICATION

- 6.01** i. **Subject to specific provisions of the Rules of the ISF (e.g. 7.16 of the Technical Code), any National Association/Federation shall have the right to discipline, sanction or disqualify in its own territory any of its own or any foreign athlete, umpire or official in accordance with the applicable rules of that National Association/Federation.**
- ii. **Should any such action involve a foreign person, the decision shall be provided to the ISF and to the National Association/Federation to which the person belongs. Should that foreign person contest any such decision of the National Federation, that person has the right to appeal such decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport of the Canton of**

Vaux, Switzerland (hereinafter CAS) under the applicable rules of the CAS. The decision of the CAS shall be final.

iii. A final decision of disqualification shall be binding on all National Associations/Federations.

6.02 The ISF may discipline, sanction or disqualify any athlete, umpire or official for any offense which is a violation of the Rules of ISF or which is otherwise against the interests of the Sport of Softball.

6.03 Disciplinary Actions by ISF

i. A complaint may be brought by any National Association/Federation, or by any Regional Vice President. All complaints shall be in writing, accompanied by any documentation, and list of any witnesses or other persons having information on which the complaining party wants to rely.

ii. If there is a complaint pending before a National Association/Federation on the same subject matter, against the same person, no action shall be taken until completion of the national proceeding, unless in the opinion of the President such delay would be prejudicial to any party or against the interests of the Sport of Softball.

iii. The President or his designee shall appoint a three person hearing panel, and there shall be no prerequisite to serving on such panel.

iv. The parties to a complaint have the right but not the obligation to be represented by counsel, to present and cross examine witnesses, to present documentary evidence, and to be heard in person.

v. The panel shall hold a hearing at such time and such place as the panel may decide in its reasonable discretion.

vi. The panel shall render its decision within thirty (30) days of the hearing.

vii. Any party to a complaint proceeding, who is aggrieved by a decision of the panel, may appeal to the CAS under the applicable Rules of the CAS. The decision of the CAS shall be final.

ARTICLE 7 AMENDMENTS

7.01 This Code may be amended during a meeting of the Congress provided that –

- . a quorum is present
- . by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting
- . a copy of such proposed amendment shall have been presented to the Secretary **General** at least **three (3) months** prior to the meeting and mailed by the Secretary **General** to each member of Congress at least **two (2) months** prior to such meeting.

ARTICLE 8 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 8.01 All officers of the Federation shall be elected for a period of four (4) years beginning with the 1989 Congress and assume their office **at the conclusion of the Congress at which appointed**. Elections take place every four (4) years or when one of the officers mentioned in Article 8.04 no longer fulfills his duty.
- 8.02 Associations/Federations shall give notice of nominations for all officers by mailing to the Secretary **General** at least three (3) months prior to Congress, any nominations they wish to submit on behalf of their Association/Federation. Each national Association/Federation can nominate only one (1) candidate for each function and the nomination must be signed by the **President/Executive Director/Administrator/Secretary of the Association/Federation** that gave notice of the nomination. The Secretary **General** will mail the list of candidates to each Association/Federation at least two (2) months prior to the Congress. Candidates receiving a simple majority of the votes cast shall be considered as elected.
- 8.03 Where an officer of the Federation vacates such office in accordance with this Code, after nominations close and before the Congress closes, the presiding officer at the Congress shall call for and accept nominations for such office from the floor of the Congress. The candidate nominated must have the approval of the nominee's Association/Federation.
- 8.04 An officer of this Federation cannot participate in a World Championship as a player, manager, coach or umpire.
- 8.05 If an officer position of this Federation becomes vacant for any reason prior to expiration of the term, the position should be filled by the President's appointment, **subject to ratification by the Executive Council at its next meeting**. If required, an election will be held at the next Congress to fulfill the balance of the term.

ARTICLE 9 DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- 9.01 The President shall preside at all meetings of the Congress and the **Executive Council**, appoints all commissions, and in general, performs the duties which pertain to such office.
- 9.02 The first Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence or during the disability of the President.
- 9.03 The Secretary-General shall manage the business and administrative affairs of the Federation as delegated and authorized by the President. He shall keep all minutes of meetings, records of members, keep proper books of account, receive and deposit all funds in a bank approved by the **Executive Council**. He shall render a financial report at the Congress meeting or at any time at the request of the President. He shall co-ordinate arrangements and preparations as provided by the Technical Code with the World Championships Organizing Commission. He shall prepare and execute on behalf of the Federation all legal agreements pertaining to World Championships as authorized and approved by the President.
- 9.04 The Secretary General may appoint an assistant Secretary General with the concurrence of the Executive Council. The duties of the assistant Secretary General shall be set by the Secretary

General. The assistant Secretary General shall not have a vote in the **Executive** Council or Congress.

- 9.05 The Executive Council alone may take action or make a decision where circumstances do not permit it to be taken by the Congress. Such action or decision is subject to ratification by the Congress at its next meeting.
- 9.06 Commissions shall be formed including but not limited to the Technical Commission and an Umpire Commission appointed by the President to include three to five members.
- 9.07 Athletes Commission. This commission is appointed by the President, no less than three (3) members nor to exceed six (6) members. These members must be currently participating in international play or have played in the past four (4) years. (International play, being World Championships or Olympics). Expenses for the athletes attending the Congress will be paid by ISF.

ARTICLE 10 CONGRESS

- 10.01 A meeting of the Congress shall be held every second year in the odd number year, Members may bid for the meeting of the Congress. Such bid shall be made two (2) years in advance. Detailed bids shall be presented to the secretary general not less than five (5) months prior to the meeting at which bids will be considered and shall be mailed to each member association/federation not less than four (4) months prior to that meeting.
- 10.02 a. The Secretary-General shall advise the exact date at least six (6) months prior to the fixed date of the meeting.
- b. A complete program and time schedule for the Congress will be co-ordinated through the ISF secretariat.
- 10.03 a. Members may bid for the meeting of the Congress. Such bid shall be made (2) two years in advance. Detailed bids shall be presented to the Secretary **General** not less than **three (3) months** prior to the meeting at which bids will be considered and shall be mailed to each member Association/Federation not less than **two (2) months** prior to that meeting.
- b. The bid deposit of one thousand dollars (\$1000) US is to be included with the bid. The bid deposit will be refunded within seven (7) days of the conclusion of the **Executive** Council at which the bid was presented, for unsuccessful bidders, and at the time of the Congress, for the successful bidder.
- c. If a bidder does not fulfill all commitments for hosting a Congress or cancels the Congress arrangements at any time after having been awarded same, the bid deposit shall be forfeited and shall be applied towards the cost of arranging a Congress at an alternative site.
- d. Where only one Association/Federation presents a bid and is awarded a Congress and then cancels the Congress, the alternative venue shall be determined by the **Executive** Council.
- e. Only one (1) city from any one country may bid.
- 10.04 A quorum shall constitute attendance of **25% of the current membership** at a meeting of the Congress.
- 10.05 In the event of a vacancy in the Congress, such vacancy shall be filled by the Association/Federation with which the retiring member was identified.

10.06 The order of business of the Congress meetings shall be:

- a. Roll call
- b. Approval of minutes of the previous Congress
- c. Matters arising from those minutes
- d. Reports of the President, Secretary General and Treasurer.
- e. Report of the Executive Council
- f. Reports of Regular Commissions
- g. Reports of Special Commissions
- h. Reports of Vice Presidents
- i. Unfinished Business
- j. New Business
- k. Election of Officers
- l. For the Good of the Federation
- m. Adjournment

10.07 Associations/Federations may give notice of motions to form part of the business of Congress to the Secretary General not less than three (3) months prior to a meeting of Congress and shall be mailed to each member Association/Federation not less than two (2) months prior to that meeting. Other business of which notice has not been given shall only be dealt with by unanimous consent of the Congress.

ARTICLE 11 DUES

11.01 The annual dues for each Association/Federation shall be two hundred dollars (\$200) payable in United States currency to the Secretary General on January 1 of each year.

11.02 Associations/Federations not having paid their dues to the Federation shall have no representation at any meeting, and when more than six (6) months in arrears, and after registered notification has been made to their President or Secretary, shall be regarded in all respects as unaffiliated.

ARTICLE 12 FINANCES

12.01 All payments of bills and charges shall be made by check.

12.02 The Secretary General of the Federation shall be bonded in such amount as the **Executive** Council shall determine, and the expense for the bond shall be paid by the Federation.

12.03 The books of the Federation shall be audited annually by an auditor chosen by the **Executive** Council.

12.04 The Executive Council shall approve the statement of accounts and balance sheets of each fiscal year.

12.05 The Executive Council shall submit the statement of accounts and balance sheets of the last biennial fiscal period to the Congress for approval.

12.06 The annual financial report to member Associations/Federations shall consist of:

- a. A full statement of the financial position of the Federation as at the end of the accounting period (balance sheet).
- b. Statements of income and expenditure for the current accounting period.

12.07 The accounting period shall be January 1 to December 31 inclusive.

ARTICLE 13 AMATEUR STATUS

13.01 In the event of an amateur competing with, or against, a professional in sports other than softball, not for money and other pecuniary reward, then the Association/Federation to which the athlete belongs shall be the judge of such competitor's status according to its own rules, and its certificate as the competitor's status shall be accepted by all other Associations/Federations.

ARTICLE 14 ELIGIBILITY

14.01 An individual shall cease to be eligible to compete by committing any of the following offenses in playing softball:

- a. By competing under a name other than his or her own.
- b. Softball players of an Association/Federation may not compete against softball players of any country not so affiliated where there is already a body governing the game of softball. Violation of this rule will result with player being declared ineligible to participate in any competition sanctioned by this Federation up to and including international competition, World Championships and Olympic Games, including qualifying competition for World Championships and Olympic Games.
- c. No athlete or team shall be permitted to represent his nation at any games other than those sanctioned or arranged by an Association/Federation.
- d.
 - i. Athlete wishing to participate in any international softball competition must be a national/citizen of the country of the National Softball Federation which is entering him.
 - ii. All disputes relating to the determination of the country which an athlete may represent in the Olympic Games shall be resolved by the IOC Executive Board.
 - iii. All disputes relating to the determination of the country which an athlete may represent in the World Championships, or qualifying competitions for the World Championships or Olympic Games, shall be resolved by the **Executive** Council.
 - iv. An athlete who is a national/citizen of more than one country at the same time may represent either one of them, as he may elect. However, after having represented one country in the World Championships, Olympic Games or qualifying competitions for World Championships or Olympic Games, he may not represent another country unless he meets the conditions set forth in paragraph v. below that apply to persons who have changed their nationality/citizenship or acquired a new nationality/citizenship.
 - v. An athlete who has represented one country in the World Championships, Olympic Games or qualifying competitions for World Championships or Olympic Games, and who has changed his nationality/citizenship or acquired a new nationality/citizenship, shall not participate in the World Championships or qualifying competitions for World

Championships or Olympic Games to represent his new country until three (3) years after such change or acquisition. This period may be reduced or even cancelled with the agreement of the National Softball Federations concerned and the approval of the Executive Council.

- e. Players or teams must first obtain in writing from their national Association/Federation wherein they reside as a citizen/national permission to compete in another country wherein they are not a permanent resident. Players and/or teams who compete in an Association/Federation area and are suspended for violation of that Association/Federation's rules, the suspension will be recognized by the Association/Federation from where the players and/or team originated.

ARTICLE 15 INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

- 15.01 An international competition in softball is either arranged between two or more Associations/Federations, or may be held by one Association/Federation only, or by a club belonging to an Association/Federation, and with the sanction of the said Associations/Federations are invited to take part in such.
- 15.02 At all international matches, the rules and regulations of the Federation shall apply. The right to arrange or sanction international matches is exclusively reserved to the Federation.
- 15.03 Each Association/Federation shall mutually recognize each other as the only Association governing softball in their respective countries, and as the only bodies competent to regulate international relations, and they alone can select competitors from their country to represent them at international competition, World Championships and Olympic Games (including qualifying competitions for World Championships and Olympic Games).
- 15.04 A national championships open to all amateur softball players or teams is not an international competition. Every Association/Federation shall have the right to hold its national championships according to its own rules and regulations.
- 15.05 Each ISF region shall have the right to organize or authorize regional championships, providing advance written approval is received from the **Executive Council**.

ARTICLE 16 TECHNICAL AND PROCEDURAL CODE FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS AND OLYMPIC GAMES

- 16.01 The Technical Code and Procedural Code as amended and approved by the ISF **Executive Council** will be in effect and govern all World Championships and Olympic Games (including qualifying competitions for World Championships and Olympic Games).

ARTICLE 17 BID PROCEDURES FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 17.01 Bid procedures for World Championships are as follows:
 1. World Championships shall be bid three (3) years in advance. Detailed bids shall be presented to the Secretary General not less than **four (4) months** prior to the meeting at which bids will be considered and shall be mailed to each member Association/Federation not less than **three (3) months** prior to such meeting.

2. Bids shall be in writing on the proper form provided by the ISF secretariat.
3. Bids must contain and provide the following minimum guaranteed:
 - a. Free housing for all participating teams including ISF officers. The total number of the team delegation shall be designated in the bid, such number shall not be less than twenty-three (23) plus an umpire. The host organizing commission must provide for not more than four (4) players to a room and two) coaches to a room.
 - b. Meals or equivalent thereof for all team delegations and ISF officers.
 - c. All local transportation including airport arrival, airport to hotel and hotel to playing site and return to airport on departure of each delegation and ISF officers.
 - d. Will provide suitable and acceptable hotel and playing facilities for teams, officials, umpires and ISF officers.
 - e. If a playing facility has not been constructed when bid is presented, then a copy of the proposed architectural drawings must be included.
 - f. Playing facilities must seat a minimum of seventy-five hundred (7,500) spectators and be equipped with lights for night play.
 - g. Bid must be accompanied by a good faith deposit of twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2,500) US which will be kept on deposit by the ISF and applied against financial guarantee. If bidder does not fulfill all requirements by ISF for hosting World Championship, deposit will be forfeited.
 - h. Bids must contain a financial guarantee to ISF of at least ten percent (10%) of the gross receipts (US dollars).
 - i. Fifty percent (50%) of any television monies (US dollars) negotiated for World Championship play will go to the Federation.
 - j. The ISF Secretary General will personally visit the site of the World Championship at least six (6) months prior to the opening of the Championship and meet with the organizing commission and inspect playing facilities. He will immediately following his visit submit a report to the ISF Executive Council. The organizing commission will be responsible for the Secretary General's travel and accommodations.
 - k. Each host country of a World Championship must file a financial report with the ISF secretariat and a copy of the said report be published and distributed to all ISF members. This report will be due no later than ninety (90) days following the completion of the World Championship. A host country that does not file the required financial report may have their affiliation rescinded.

ARTICLE 18 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION

18.01 At least **six (6) months** prior to the World Championship, the host nation shall invite entries from all **nations who have qualified** giving at that time the fullest possible details including in particular –

The venue
 Commencing date
 Proposed method or program of play
 Salient financial details including accommodations offered and any assistance the host nation may be giving to visitors
 The closing date for entries which shall be **five (5) months** prior to commencement of the tournament.

- 18.02 Immediately upon the closing of entries the Federation shall circulate information to all National Associations/Federations informing them of the entries.
- 18.03 Each participating nation shall pay an entry fee of two hundred (\$200) US to the International Softball Federation no later than five (5) months prior to the tournament starting date.**
- 18.04 Each participating nation shall pay a deposit of fifteen hundred (\$1500) US to the International Softball Federation no later than five (5) months before the tournament starting date. If the team fails to participate, the deposit will be forfeited to the organizing commission. If they participate, the deposit will be returned.**
- 18.05 A National Association/Federation who has entered a team and subsequently withdraws from participating, may be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the Executive Council, including the possible suspension of their affiliation.**
- 18.06 A Fast Pitch World Championship will be held every four (4) years in each of the following divisions:

- Women
- Junior Women
- Men
- Junior Men

From 2006 the order will be - 2006 Women
 2007 Junior Women
 2008 Junior Men
 2009 Men

- 18.07 All Fast Pitch World Championships will consist of no more than sixteen (16) teams. The teams will be determined as follows:

Host	1
Africa	2
Asia	3
Europe	3
Americas	5
Oceania	<u>2</u>
	16
- 18.08 All other World Championships (modified and slow pitch) will remain open qualification.

18.09 At the World Championships for junior men and women, the age qualification is determined as of the 31st of December of the year prior to the championship. If a player reaches his/her 19th birthday any time during the year of the championship, that player is eligible for the Junior World Championship.

ARTICLE 19 QUALIFYING COMPETITION FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 19.01 The qualifying competition for World Championships:**
 - a. **Will be open to any nation affiliated with ISF in the region.**

- b. **May be a recognized competition currently held for the region.**
- c. **With no recognized competition in place, the ISF Region Vice President shall arrange the country to host the qualifying competition.**
- d. **Each participating nation shall pay an entry fee to the host nation no later than four (4) months prior to the tournament starting date. The amount of entry fee shall be decided by the host nation and approved by the Executive Council. Should a nation withdraw or fail to participate in the competition, the entry fee shall be forfeited to the host nation.**
- e. **The cost of the tournament (travel, accommodation and meals) would be the responsibility of the individual participating country.**
- f. **All qualifying tournaments must be completed no later than six (6) months prior to the World Championship.**
- g. **At qualifying competitions for Youth World Championships the participants shall be eligible by age for the Youth World Championship in which they are to participate.**
- h. **A National Association/Federation who has entered a team and subsequently withdraws from participating, may be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the Executive Council, including the possible suspension of their affiliation.**

ARTICLE 20 OLYMPIC GAMES COMPETITION

20.01 The Olympic /World Championship Commission shall prepare and recommend to the Congress a system for qualifying teams for Olympic competition. The Commission shall make such proposal at least three (3) years prior to softball participating on the Olympic Program. The Commission shall take into consideration in preparing and recommending a system of qualifying that will give the greatest opportunity to as many teams and regions to participate in Olympic qualification taking into consideration time and cost factors. It shall be the final decision of the ISF Congress to consider all proposals with the ultimate consideration being to have the strongest and most competitive teams participating in the Olympic Program.

20.02 The Olympic Host Team plus the top four (4) teams from the Women's World Championship (excluding the host country, should they finish in the four (4) would qualify for the Olympic Games. The other three (3) entrants to the Olympic Games would be determined by holding the following qualification tournaments.

- i. A qualifying tournament in Europe or Africa with teams from the European and African Region competing.
- ii. A qualifying tournament in the Pan American Region with teams from North, South, Central America and Caribbean competing.
- iii. A qualifying tournament in the Asian or Oceania Region with teams from Asia and the Oceania competing.

The winners of each of these tournaments would qualify for the Olympic Games.

ARTICLE 21 QUALIFYING COMPETITION FOR OLYMPIC GAMES

21.01 The qualifying competition for Olympic Games would -

- a. Be open only to those teams who had not already qualified for the Olympic Games.

- b. Be at a site approved by the ISF Executive Council. The highest finishing country in the World Championship from the respective regions would be given the “first right of refusal” to hold their region’s qualifier provided the minimum required criteria as established by the ISF Executive Council is met.
- c. The cost of the tournament (travel, accommodation and meals) would be the responsibility of the individual participating country.
- d. The teams do not have to participate in the World Championship to participate in a regional Olympic qualifying tournament.
- e. All regional qualifying tournaments must be completed no later than six (6) months prior to the Olympic Games.
- f. **Each participating nation shall pay an entry fee to the host nation no later than four (4) months prior to the tournament starting date. The amount of entry fee should be decided by the host nation and approved by the Executive Council. Should a nation withdraw from or fail to participate in the competition, the entry fee shall be forfeited to the host nation.**
- g. **A National Association/Federation who has entered a team and subsequently withdraws from participating, may be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the Executive Council, including the possible suspension of affiliation.**

ARTICLE 22 DOPING CONTROL

22.01 By action of the ISF Congress at its 1999 Congress (Seoul) the ISF has adopted a comprehensive anti-doping control program addressing both in-competition and out-of-competition testing. The procedures and rules adopted by the Congress are contained in a published document of which copies have been sent to all affiliated national Associations/Federations (NFA), the International Olympic Committee (IOC), and all National Olympic Committees (NOC) with additional copies available from the ISF secretariat.

ARTICLE 23 ISF PLAYING RULES COMMISSION

23.01 This Commission shall consider and take action on all properly submitted changes to the Playing Rules of Softball that shall be in all ISF sanctioned and/or organized international competition.

- 23.02 a. Rule changes are to be proposed every four years, commencing in 2001.
- b. Rule changes may be submitted by member Associations/Federations not less than five (5) months prior to a meeting of Congress stating the changes they want made to the game and the reasons for those changes.
- c. The rules interpreter and assistant rules interpreter shall then draft specific changes to the rules which if adopted would give effect to the proposed changes to the game.
- d. Such proposed changes shall be mailed to each member Association/Federation not less than two (2) months prior to the meeting at which they are to be considered.
- a. The ISF Playing Rules Commission shall then take action on the proposed changes according to Article 23.01.

23.03 The chairman of this commission shall be the first Vice President of ISF and the secretary shall be the Secretary General of ISF. The commission shall consist of fifteen (15) members, two (2) from each region, which will be appointed by the Executive Council.

23.04 The effective date of any rule changes shall be determined by the commission.

23.05 The President shall appoint a playing rules interpreter and as assistant playing rules interpreter. The term of the interpreter and assistant interpreter commences on appointment and concludes immediately following the adjournment of the next Congress. The interpreters shall provide on request from the Rules Commission, case examples for inclusion with amendments to the Playing Rules.

ARTICLE 24 HALL OF FAME

24.01 For the player nominations they must conform to the following:

1. Retired from competition for four years.
 - a. Players who participated in International competition up to 1969 are eligible to be nominated provided they:
 - i. played in at least one (1) World Championship, and
 - ii. are nominated by a National Association/Federation stating their participation and providing substantiation of their performance.

The induction for this category to be restricted to not more than two (2) players (preferably one (1) male and one (1) female), at each Congress.

2. Must have competed in international competition for a minimum period of six (6) competitive years and must have been a member of **his/her countries** national team and must have played in at least twenty (20) games **during** internationally sanctioned competition. **(Competitive years are defined as those years in which the player has competed in Olympic Games, World Championships, Regional Games, Regional Qualifiers or internationally sanctioned tournaments or events).**
3. **The player must have also had an outstanding record of achievement during this time; must have made a significant contribution to the achievements of his/her national teams; must have participated in at least one (1) World Championship/Olympic Games or in at least two (2) Regional Games, Regional Qualifiers, Olympic Qualifiers or internationally sanctioned tournaments or events.**
4. Nominations for players can only be submitted by a National Association/Federation.
5. A nomination form will be provided by the ISF secretariat.

24.02 For “non-players” they must conform to the following:

1. Umpires: Umpires must have officiated in:
 - a. Must have been involved with umpiring internationally for at least ten (10) years.
 - b. **At least one (1) World Championship or Olympic Games.**
 - c. **At least three (3) Regional Games, Regional Qualifiers, Olympic Qualifiers or internationally sanctioned tournaments or events.**

d. **Must have made notable contribution towards the development of umpiring in their respective country and/or region.**

2. Coaches/Managers: Coaches/Managers must have:

a. Coached **with distinction** in internationally **sanctioned** competition for at least ten (10) years.

b. **Coached with distinction in at least one (1) World Championship or Olympic Games.**

c. **Coached with distinction in at least three (3) Regional Games, Regional Qualifiers, Olympic Qualifiers or internationally sanctioned tournaments or events.**

d. **Made a notable contribution towards the development of coaching in his/her country and/or region.**

3. Administrators/Organizers

Administrators/Organizers may be nominated by either their National Associations/Federations or ISF.

a. **They must have served with distinction** for at least ten (10) years **in building, promotion, developing or serving the sports of softball internationally.**

b. **They must have performed these services in an exemplary manner.**

4. Meritorious Service

Includes combination as umpire-coach-administrator-sponsor.

The individual(s) must have:

a. Ten (10) years in active **service in** international competition, **sponsorship or service.**

b. **Performed in an outstanding and exemplary manner while making a significant contribution to the game of softball internationally.**

NOTE:Definition of a game played in international competition: Games played in international competition sanctioned by ISF include games played in World Championships, Continental Games and Regional Games, and Olympic Games and qualifying competitions for World Championships and Olympic Games. In cases of doubt, the Hall of Fame Commission shall determine if a played game is a game played in international competition or not in accordance with the ISF Code and such determination is final.

24.03 The selection commission shall be comprised of six (6) persons, plus the Secretary General of ISF. There must be a minimum of five (5) votes of the commission to recommend to the Congress for election. If the Commission member has a nominee from his country, he would disqualify himself from voting. In this case it would take four (4) votes to elect.

24.04 Nominations must be submitted to ISF **six (6) months** prior to the Congress at which the nominations are to be considered.

- 24.05 Upon receipt of nomination(s), the Secretary General shall send to nominating Associations/Federations form(s) to be completed, which provide detailed information on nominees.
- 24.06 A suitable recognition plaque and certificate and a lifetime pass to ISF events shall be presented to the honoree by or on behalf of ISF within six (6) months after election.
- 24.07 The ISF Hall Fame shall be located at the venue of the present ISF headquarters.