

Constitution Of The Malta Tenpin Bowling Association

Article I: NAME

This organization shall be known as the Malta Tenpin Bowling Association, herein referred to as the 'Association' or 'M.T.B.A.'

Article II: PURPOSE

The M.T.B.A. shall be a voluntary, autonomous, non-profit making representative, legislative and executive body with complete and final jurisdiction over affiliated members, leagues and tournaments which it organizes and/or sanctions.

It shall be the purpose of this Association to promote and foster the game of Tenpins by:-

- (1) Uniting the members of leagues, teams and individuals within its jurisdiction
- (2) Encouraging sportsmanship and fair play
- (3) Enforcing the playing rules
- (4) Issuing and regulating sanctions for league and tournament competition
- (5) Enforcing bowling equipment specifications, and issuing and regulating Certificates to bowling centre owners or lessees, should it have the competent/qualified personnel to undertake this task
- (6) Collecting established fees
- (7) Conducting all National Leagues that are required by the Members, comprising as many Divisions as are necessary, as well as any other Leagues and Tournaments, amongst which MUST be an annual National Association tournament to determine the individual champions for the country, on a scratch and handicap basis, as well as at an Intermediate level.

Article III: MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this Association shall be open to individuals who bowl as members of organized teams, leagues, or as unattached individuals and all individuals who are interested in bowling and who are qualified under the rules of this Association.

Section 1: Life Membership

May be granted by the Board of Directors, but such membership shall be non-voting unless otherwise provided.

Section 2: Membership List.

The Association will maintain a Membership List of all its Members. It will also retain, for each League, a list of the names and addresses of its Officers, the names of its teams and their captains (which must be provided by the League Secretary) upon formation or reformation of any league and upon alteration of the membership of any league.

Section 3: Suspension and Reinstatement Procedures.

This procedure shall be adopted to ensure that a fair hearing shall be granted to anyone whose right to membership of the Association has been challenged. When duly authorized, the Secretary General of the M.T.B.A. shall institute action in cases involving suspension and/or reinstatement.

Suspension:

1. Suspension proceedings will only be started after the M.T.B.A. has received a written statement of charges.
2. The Disciplinary Committee members shall receive notice including time, place and purpose for holding the Meeting.
3. The defendant/s and the complainant/s (where applicable), shall be requested to be at the hearing, as well as others whose testimony may be appropriate. Notification to the defendant/s should be delivered by hand or by registered mail. The defendant shall be informed of the specific charges against him/her and the right to produce witnesses/evidence to testify on his/her behalf.
4. A Quorum of the M.T.B.A. Disciplinary Committee must be present to conduct these hearings.

- a) Adequate minutes must be taken.
 - b) A roster of those present must be recorded.
 - c) On conclusion of the hearing the decision of the Disciplinary Committee must be made known to all parties, unless a decision is withheld pending the gathering of additional facts.
5. The defendant may appeal against the decision within fifteen days, only if he/she is able to produce evidence not already heard.

In absentia proceedings.

A case may be tried "in absentia" provided that the defendant had been clearly notified personally or by registered mail and that it is established that he/she is aware of the proceedings.

Reinstatement.

1. A written application for reinstatement must be filed with the M.T.B.A.
2. Each request for reinstatement shall be considered at a regular or special meeting of the Disciplinary Committee.
3. The applicant has the right to appear at the meeting at which his/her request for reinstatement will be discussed and he/she should be given at least five days notice. He/she may also bring witnesses to support him/her.
4. Proper minutes of the meeting will be taken and the Committee's decision as to whether the applicant may or may not be reinstated shall be clearly made known to him/her.
5. The applicant's status remains unchanged until such time as he/she receives written approval of his/her request.

Section 4: Affiliations.

The M.T.B.A. is affiliated to: the *Federation Internationale des Quilleurs (FIQ)*; the *Federation Internationale de Quilleurs Tenpin Division*, also known as *FIQ World Tenpin Bowling Association (WTBA)*; the *Federation Internationale de Quilleurs European Zone (FIQEZ)*, the *Maltese Olympic Committee, il-Kunsill Malti għall-iSport*, as well as any other Body that the Board of Directors may decide to affiliate with.

Section 5: F.I.Q. World Tenpin Division.

As Members of the World Tenpin Bowling Association, we are automatically subject to the jurisdiction of the F.I.Q. World Tenpin Division.

Article IV: DUES

The Annual membership dues for this Association shall be €25 per adult, € for Youths (persons between the ages of twelve and seventeen, both included) and €2 for Juniors (under the age of twelve). Special needs' card holders will benefit from free membership.

These dues shall be collected with effect from 1st January and are due on this day of every year. Anyone seeking to join the Association after 30th September, will be charged half the annual fee/s.

Any member ceasing to belong to the Association by resignation or otherwise, shall have no claim to have any part of their subscription refunded.

The only members who shall have full rights (including voting rights) but are not liable to membership dues are the members of the Board of Directors who are duly elected at the Association's Annual General Meeting. However, should any of these members terminate their membership of the Board of Directors, for any reason whatsoever; they will become automatically liable to pay the membership dues with immediate effect.

Article V: ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT

The Control and Management of this Association is vested in the Board of Directors, its Executive Committee, its Officers and any Standing Committee it may choose to appoint, as provided below.

Section 1: Voting Rights.

At the organizational meeting of the Board of Directors, each individual should be allowed one vote and representation at all Board of Director meetings thereafter. A Quorum shall be twenty five per cent.

Section 2: Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee of the Association shall consist of the President, the Secretary General and the Treasurer.

Article VI: ANNUAL / EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETINGS.

Section 1: Frequency.

An Annual General Meeting will be called once every calendar year, preferably in the first month of the year.

Section 2: Elections by ballot.

The President and nine other persons who will eventually make up the Executive Committee and Board of Directors shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, after being duly nominated and seconded by two other paid-up members. No member may make more than one nomination, nor may they second more than one candidate. All such nominations will be declared as null and void.

Should an election be necessary, then three persons who are not represented in the election process will be nominated from the floor to act as Chairman and two Counters. The Chairman will be responsible to ensure that the election is carried out in accordance with this Statute and that all votes counted are valid, while the Counters will each effect a separate count of the valid votes cast, which must then tally before the results are announced to the Meeting by the Chairman.

The approved list of nominees shall be provided to all eligible delegates, as they register to vote at the Annual General Meeting.

Each ballot paper will be compiled in strict alphabetical order, sorted on the nominees' surnames. Each voter can vote for any number of persons, but not more than there are posts available/vacant. Ballot papers having more in number will be considered as null and void in their entirety.

Save as provided below, the nine persons polling the highest number of votes during the elections shall be declared elected as Members of the Board of Directors. In the case of a tie for the last elected director, there will be further elections between the candidates who obtained the same number of votes.

However, the gentleman and lady obtaining the highest number of votes from gentlemen or ladies standing for election, shall be declared elected notwithstanding that he/she is not included with the top nine, provided that he/she shall have obtained a minimum of 10% of the valid votes cast. In this latter case, the last elected candidate will be replaced by the gentleman/lady as specified in the subsection.

Section 3: Attendance at the General Meetings.

To be eligible to participate in general meetings, dues must have been paid at least ten days prior to the Meeting and the Member must be one of good standing.

It is obligatory for each team participating in the National Leagues to be represented by their Team Captain or his/her representative. Failure to do so will result in Disciplinary action.

Section 4: Voting Rights.

Each Member eligible to attend the General Meeting is entitled to one vote. A Quorum shall be twenty five per cent of all eligible Members. Should there not be a Quorum, then a period of grace of twenty minutes shall be allowed, following which the Meeting may proceed as normal.

Section 5: Amendments to Constitution.

This Constitution may be amended by the delegates in session in accordance with standard procedures.

Should any Member wish to propose any amendment to the Association's Constitution, Rules and/or Regulations, then such proposal/amendment must be submitted in writing to the President or Secretary General of the Association not later than ten days before the General Meeting.

For an amendment to be approved, it requires the consent of a minimum of seventy five per cent of those eligible Members present.

Amendments to By-Laws may be approved by a simple majority of those eligible Members present.

Section 6: Suggested Order of Business.

1. Roll Call/Attendance.
2. To read and approve the Minutes of the last General Meeting.
3. Annual Report by the President or Secretary General.
4. Financial Statement for the previous year by the Treasurer.
5. To consider any correctly submitted proposals/amendments to the Statute.
6. Election of President and Members of Board of Directors, if required.
7. To appoint a qualified auditor/s.
8. Any other matters.
9. Adjournment.

Article VII: ELIGIBILITY, TERMS, VACANCIES AND REMOVALS

Section 1: Eligibility.

Representatives, as specified in Article VI, Section 2, will be chosen annually at the A.G.M. after being duly nominated and seconded by two other Members, and serve as the legalised representatives at all meetings in that year.

Prior to the A.G.M., a list of nominees shall be presented by the Secretary General to the Board of Directors for approval.

At the first Meeting of the Board of Directors subsequent to the A.G.M., the President will recommend who should carry out the duties of Secretary General and Treasurer. The new Board of Directors may reject this recommendation, should there be just cause.

To be eligible for nomination and election to the Executive Committee, those named must meet the following criteria:

1. Must be a member of the M.T.B.A. in good standing
2. Bowl in a league and/or reside within the jurisdiction of the Association
3. Must be of Maltese nationality
4. Must have been a member of the M.T.B.A. Board of Directors for at least two years, unless no such candidate can be found to fill the vacancy.
5. Cannot be a shareholder or Director of any bowling establishment within the jurisdiction of the M.T.B.A. While the Executive Committee may include a maximum of one person who is an employee of a bowling establishment, then this person may not contest the post of President.

A member of the Executive Committee must continue to bowl in a league and/or reside within the jurisdiction of the Association during his term of office. A member of the Executive Committee who does not qualify for continuing in office under this provision shall be notified in writing upon authority of the Executive Committee to that effect, and a replacement selected for the unexpired term as outlined under "Vacancies".

Section 2: Terms of Office.

The term of office of the President shall not exceed three years.

The term of office of the Secretary General shall not exceed one year.

The term of office of the Treasurer shall not exceed one year.

The officers of the Executive Committee shall commence their term of Office immediately on their appointment by the Board of Directors.

Officers of the Association may be re-elected to the same Office previously held, or any other Office. Only members of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee may vote at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 3: Vacancies.

Vacancies will be filled as provided below.

The Board is empowered to elect a person to act as an acting President in order to fill the post of the President for a short duration. This person must already be a member of the Board of Directors. Should the vacancy be of a permanent nature, then an Extraordinary General Meeting will be convened to elect a new President.

Vacancies in all other Offices will be filled by the President subject to the approval of the Executive Committee for the unexpired term, unless it runs beyond the next Annual Meeting, in which case the appointment will be until that Meeting.

Section 4: Removals from Office.

When an officer is accused in writing of failure in the proper performance of his duties by any member of the Association, or is charged with misfeasance, nonfeasance, malfeasance or other conduct harmful to the Association by a member of the Board of Directors, the Disciplinary

Committee of the Association shall conduct a hearing within two weeks. Furthermore, the Disciplinary Committee shall have the authority to remove such Officer or Director on proof of such charge.

If the Disciplinary Board fails to act, then the President is duty bound to appoint a Committee of not less than three persons to conduct a hearing and report its recommendations to the Board of Directors for action.

Where in the judgement of the Executive Committee of the Association any member of the Board of Directors is unable through disability or prolonged illness to perform the duties of his/her Office, it may by a two-thirds vote, declare the Office vacated.

Section 5: Transferring Records.

Officers and Directors shall transfer all records and other property belonging to the Association to their elected successors in office, not later than February 1, unless another date is designated.

If a vacancy is caused other than by the normal expiration of term of office, such records and other property belonging to the Association shall be turned over to the Board of Directors within two weeks from the date the vacancy occurs.

Article VIII: DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

The duties of the Officers of this Association shall be those specified below.

Section 1: Duties of the President.

The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Association performing all duties usually pertaining to this Office including specifically:

1. He/she will preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and of the Executive Committee.
2. He/she will see to the enforcement of the objects, provisions and purpose of this constitution.
3. He/she will, when so instructed by the Executive Committee, sign and endorse all cheques and warrants by the Treasurer.
4. He/she will make a monthly check on the amount of funds on deposit in the Bank to the credit of the Association to verify the correctness of the balance.
5. Annually he/she will ensure that an audit of the Association's accounts will be carried out by the nominated auditor/s.
6. He/she may select all the members to form a Disciplinary Committee, or any other sub-committee, which is deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.
7. As the principal Official of the M.T.B.A., is also automatically the principal Representative of the Association at all Official Meetings held both locally and abroad. If he/she is unable to attend, then he/she will nominate a suitable alternative.

Section 2: Duties of the Secretary General.

The Secretary General shall perform all duties usually pertaining to this Office including specifically:

1. He/she will be responsible for organizing all Association Meetings of the various Boards/Committees.
2. He/she will keep for the permanent record an account of the proceedings of all meetings of the Board and Executive Committee which shall at all times be available to and the property of the Association.
3. He/she shall conduct all correspondence of the Association including notices to members of meetings of the Board or Executive Committee, as well as issuing any relevant circulars to members.

4. He/she will be responsible for keeping a diary of events.
5. He/she will be responsible for liaising with other associations.
6. He/she is automatically the second Representative of the M.T.B.A. at all M.O.C. Meetings.
7. He/she, or a duly authorized representative, will keep a record of all scores made in all leagues/tournaments conducted and/or sanctioned by the Association for at least one year.
8. He/she, or a duly authorized and qualified representative, will annually measure and inspect the bowling lanes within the jurisdiction of the Association upon request and, if they conform to all M.T.B.A. specifications and requirements, recommend to the Board that a Regulation lane certificate be issued for the season.
9. He/she will, when so instructed by the Executive Committee, sign and endorse all cheques and warrants by the Treasurer.

Section 3: Duties of the Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall perform all duties usually pertaining to this Office including specifically:

1. He/she shall receive, receipt, record and report all dues, fees, monies or property donated or paid to the Association.
2. He/she will keep an account of all receipts and disbursements and be prepared to present a report of all financial transactions of the Association for the previous or current season at the Annual General Meeting.
3. He/she will maintain a statement of the current financial condition of the Association available upon request by the President, Executive Committee or the Board of Directors.
4. He/she will make regular deposits of all money received in an approved bank in the name of the area association subject to withdrawal on his signature and that of one other Officer.
5. He/she is primarily responsible for obtaining adequate funds and/or sponsorships to enable the Association to fulfil its financial obligations/commitments.
6. He/she will keep a correct and true record of all Memberships.
7. He/she will be personally liable for all monies entrusted to his/her possession.
8. He/she or a duly authorized representative will collect annual M.T.B.A. certification fees. He will charge the appropriate fees for the inspection services.
9. He/she will keep an up-to-date inventory of all properties of the Association.

Section 4: Duties of the Public Relations Officer.

The Public Relations Officer shall perform all duties usually pertaining to this Office. He/she is primarily responsible for the Association's visibility, vis-à-vis the media, the Association's Members etc. These duties include specifically:

1. He/she is responsible for issuing all Press Releases.
2. He/she is to organize and attend all Press Conferences.
3. He/she is to organize television and radio coverage/spots.
4. He/she is to organize any publicity materials required, such as, posters, fliers, publications etc.

Article IX: THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall carry out the purpose and objects of the Association by transacting its business and enforcing its rules and regulations under the direction and with the approval of the Board of Directors as specified below:

Section 1: Meetings

The Executive Committee shall hold no less than four meetings a year on a quarterly basis. Further, the Committee shall meet at the call of the President or upon request of two of its members. Three days notice of all meetings shall be given to all members and a majority of these shall constitute a quorum. Voting by mail or proxy will not be permitted.

Section 2: Suggested Order of Business

1. Roll Call.
2. Reading of minutes and action thereon.
3. Reports of officers and Executive Directors.
4. Reports of committees.
5. Unfinished business.
6. New business.
7. Adjournment.

Section 3: Executive Committee Powers

1. The Executive Committee shall have full power to render final decisions in all protests and disputes arising in the jurisdiction of its association. To this end, it will have full power to bring before it any person or to inspect any pertinent records or papers to the extent that these may assist in giving all a fair and full hearing. These powers may be delegated to a duly appointed Disciplinary Committee and/or Appeals' Board.
2. Within the rules of the M.T.B.A. and insofar as local funds permit, the Executive Committee may effect improvements in procedure and provide additional services to its members subject for continuance to approval at the next Board of Directors meeting.
3. The Executive Committee will authorise the Treasurer to pay bills without unnecessary delay. Bills questioned will first be approved by the same Executive Committee.
4. The Executive Committee will consider first all suggestions for changes in the By-Laws of the Association, and make recommendations for their disposition to the Board of Directors.
5. In line of its duty of finding ways and means to finance the association, the Executive Committee is specifically empowered to make recommendations to the Board of Directors concerning dues.
6. The Executive Committee shall provide for the maintenance of an average record of Association members to be available for determining entering averages in sanctioned competition as specified in the By-Laws either by:-
 - a) Publishing an annual yearbook listing the names and averages of each member as furnished by the league secretaries, or
 - b) Maintaining on file for one year the standing sheets furnished by the league secretaries.

Article X: THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The ultimate control and management of this Association is vested in the Board of Directors and it shall be its function and purpose to enforce and carry out the provisions of this constitution as provided and as specified in this Constitution and its By-Laws.

Section 1: Membership

Representatives, as specified in Article VI, Section 2, will be chosen annually at the A.G.M. after being duly nominated and seconded by two other Members, and serve as the legalised representatives at all meetings in that year.

Any person resigning from the Board, for any reason other than on health or personal grounds, may not seek re-election for the following two elections.

Members of the Executive Committee are ex-officio members of the Board of Directors but they may, in no case, cast more than one vote except as provided in Section 6 of this Article.

The Board of Directors will hold a regular Annual General Meeting for all members at a time it shall determine, preferably in the first month of each year.

Extraordinary meetings of the Board may be called by the President, or his/her substitute, and must be called by him on a written request of five or more members of the Board of Directors or that of one hundred Association members in good standing. Ten-day written notice of all Extraordinary meetings must be given to each member. This notice must specify the business to be transacted.

Section 2: Representation on a team basis

When representation is on a team basis, each league shall be allowed one representative for each four men required for the normal playing strength of the league - not counting substitutes and extras.

Section 3: Representation on a league basis

When representation is on a league basis, and unless provided as specified below, each league representative shall have one vote and no league representative may vote for more than one league, or for more than one division or section bowling a separate schedule.

The Association may permit each league representative one vote for each four men required for the normal playing strength of the league not counting substitutes or extras.

Section 4: Reimbursements

The Board is empowered to authorise reimbursement of transportation or other out-of-pocket expenses from M.T.B.A. funds to its members and to members of the Executive Committee where such expense may cause individual hardship.

Section 5: Vacancy in the Post of President

The Board is empowered to elect a person to act as an acting President in order to fill the post of the President for a short duration. This person must already be a member of the Board of Directors. Should the vacancy be of a permanent nature, then an Extraordinary General Meeting will be convened to elect a new President.

Section 6: Other Board Powers

Furthermore, the powers of the Board are to include:

- a) It shall exercise its right of management and shall enforce all the objects of the Association
- b) It shall be empowered to set up policies on procedures to regulate any matter not fully covered in the constitution, regulations or rules
- c) It shall have the power to withhold membership of any member or of a non-member for cause
- d) It shall be empowered to grant, withhold, suspend, withdraw or otherwise regulate Bowling Centre Lane Certificates for cause
- e) It may insure the assets of all National or sanctioned leagues or tournaments or held in its custody at the expense of the Association under such conditions, against such perils, in such sums, at such times, for such times, for such premises and for the length of time as in its opinion shall be proper.
- f) Upon winding up/dissolution of the Organisation, any remaining assets should be applied in favour of another organisation with similar aims.

Section 7: Voting

Voting by proxy in any form is prohibited. Only votes cast by the members present will be counted. An authorised representative unable to attend the meeting may appoint an alternate from the same league who, upon presentation of written authorisation, may attend, participate and vote.

Section 8: Suggested Order of Business

1. Roll Call.
2. Reading of minutes and action thereon.
3. Reports of Officers and Executive Directors.
4. Report of Executive Committee.
5. Reports of Standing Committees.
6. Reports of Special Committees.
7. Unfinished business.
8. New business.
9. Election of officers.
10. Adjournment.

Article XI: STANDING COMMITTEES

Each Standing Committee will be set up as per Article VIII, Section 1, and is answerable to the Board of Directors.

The term will normally be for one year, unless otherwise agreed, at the end of which, a report shall be filed by the Committees' Secretaries with the Board of Directors outlining its activities and recommendations, prior to the next Annual General Meeting.

Section 1: Disciplinary Committee

It shall determine any question, protest, charge or other matter. In order to achieve this, the Disciplinary Committee will request the Secretary General to issue to the several parties and witnesses concerned its citation by hand or by registered mail to appear at the hearing with the records and papers involved in the case. It is empowered to retain such of these papers or records as it deems vital.

Should any/all of the parties involved not make an appearance on the date in question, then a period of grace of fifteen minutes shall be given, after which the session may proceed without them.

It shall have the power to hear and determine all protests arising from or because of any question as to the proper construction of any provision of the constitution, rules or regulations.

It shall have the power to suspend or otherwise discipline any M.T.B.A. member for cause and in accordance with the Associations' rules and regulations.

It shall have the authority to conduct a hearing for any Officer or member of the Board of Directors charged with misfeasance, nonfeasance, malfeasance or other conduct harmful to the Association and shall be empowered to remove such Officer or Director on proof of such charge.

Section 2: Board of Appeal

It shall have appellate jurisdiction over all matters taken to it by appeal from any decision of the Disciplinary Committee wherein are involved questions as to the proper construction of any provision of the constitution, rules or regulations of the Association.

In order to achieve this, the Board of Appeal will request the Secretary General to issue to the several parties and witnesses concerned its citation by hand or by registered mail to appear at the hearing with the records and papers involved in the case. It is empowered to retain such of these papers or records as it deems vital. Should these records or papers have already been retained by the Disciplinary Committee, then it is empowered to request that these documents are handed over to it.

Should any/all of the parties involved not make an appearance on the date in question, then a period of grace of fifteen minutes shall be given, after which the session may proceed without them.

Any decision by the Board of Appeal shall be final.

Section 3: Technical Board

Its purpose is to help satisfy the various technical needs of our sport. As far as is possible, its terms of reference shall include, but not necessarily comprise only the following:

The National Squad

- a) To provide a proper training schedule, adequate coaching facilities, create regulations and record attendance thereof
- b) To ensure that adequate physical preparations are available
- c) To make recommendations regarding selection of players
- d) To help fund the players expenses

Lane Certifications

- a. it shall be empowered to issue, withhold, suspend withdraw or otherwise regulate Bowling Centre Lane Certificates for cause
- b. it shall be empowered to appoint a qualified person to measure lanes for certification and/or to inspect lanes for compliance with bowling equipment and lane dressing requirements
- c. it shall keep a true record of all Lane Certificates, issued and refused, to include the name of applicant and date of the application.
- d. it shall collect annual M.T.B.A. Certification Fees

Coaching

To ensure that no member of the Association will represent the MTBA as a Bowling Instructor, unless he/she is the holder of a Bowling Instructor's Certificate, duly recognised by the MTBA.

Article XII: DOPING GUIDELINES FOR DOPING CONTROL.

Section 1: General

This Organisation accepts the World Anti-Doping Code as approved by the WADA Foundation Board in June 2003 as the basis for the fight against doping in sport and agrees to implement the applicable provisions of the Code in its policies, statutes, rules and regulations.

Doping Control Tests may be carried out during any WTBA/MTBA Sanctioned Championships. These will be conducted by a Doping Control Officer appointed by the Organising Committee of the Championships. Players and team officials should acquaint themselves with the doping control procedures contained in the appropriate rules and procedural guidelines issued by the WTBA.

These Guidelines must be followed as far as is reasonably practical. A departure or departures from these guidelines shall not invalidate the finding of a prohibited substance, unless it was such as to cast real doubt on the reliability of the finding.

Section 2: Doping Control Procedures

For Doping Control procedures please refer to WADA's International Standard for Testing on their web-site: <http://www.wada-ama.org>

Section 3: Communication of Results

In the case of National Events, if the analysis of the main "A" sample indicates the presence of a prohibited substance, the laboratory shall inform the M.T.B.A. Medical Officer immediately who shall then inform the president of the M.T.B.A., who shall then inform the player as soon as reasonably practicable. The M.T.B.A. should request an explanation from the player which explanation, if any, should be relayed to the Medical Officer to assist in analysis.

Should the player choose to have an analysis for the "B" sample he must (within one week of being informed) inform the M.T.B.A. who shall arrange a date 21 days from the analysis of the "A" sample. The expense for the analysis of the "B" sample must be borne by the player. Once testing on the reserve "B" is complete, the laboratory report should be sent to the Medical Officer as well as, in due course, a copy of all relevant laboratory data.

If the Medical Officer believes that a prohibited substance has been detected in the main "A" sample and the player does not request the "B" sample confirmation, the test shall be regarded as positive and the player shall be suspended at this time. This shall be reported by the Medical Officer to the FIQ/WTBA and the M.T.B.A. Executive Board.

Until such time as the player is informed that a prohibited substance has been found in his sample, all details of the investigation should be treated as confidential by all persons connected with doping control.

Every player shall have the right to a hearing before the relevant Disciplinary Board of the M.T.B.A. before any decision on eligibility is reached. The player concerned may appeal to the FIQ/WTBA Presidium if he/she is not satisfied with his/her National Federation's decision, for final and binding adjudication.

If the player is found to have committed a doping offence and this is confirmed after a hearing or he/she waives his/her right to a hearing, he/she shall be declared ineligible. His/her ineligibility shall begin from the date on which the sample was provided.

Section 4: Prohibited Classes of Substances and Prohibited Methods

For an updated list of Prohibited Substances, please refer to WADA's Prohibited List on their web-site: <http://www.wada-ama.org>

Section 4: Sanctions

A doping offence will be deemed to be committed when a player:

- a) Fails a doping test.
- b) Refuses to submit to a doping test when required to do so.

A similar offence is deemed to be committed by anyone assisting, or instigating others to commit a doping offence.

When a doping offence has taken place, the player concerned is suspended from the time that the particular urine sample was collected. In the case of competitions his/her medal is withdrawn and awarded to the next competitor and he/she is suspended from participating further in the championships. If the offence involves anabolic steroids, amphetamines, peptide hormones and analogues, cocaine and prohibited techniques, the player is also disqualified from earlier events in the same Championships and any prizes won withdrawn.

To decide future eligibility, the player shall be given a hearing by the M.T.B.A. If the doping offence is confirmed, the player is rendered ineligible as follows:

9.1. If the analysis revealed the presence of ephedrine, of phenylpropanolamine etc., administered orally as a cough suppressant or painkiller in association with decongestants and or anti-histamines:

- 3 months for the first offence.
- 2 years for the second offence.
- life ban for the third offence.

9.2. If the analysis revealed the presence of anabolic steroids, amphetamine-related and other stimulants, caffeine diuretics, beta-blockers, narcotic analgesics and designer drugs:

- 2 years for the first offence.
- life ban for the second offence.

Article XIII: AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS.

Amendments to any By-Laws may be approved by the Board of Directors of the Association in session, subject to attendance of at least seventy five per cent of its members.

Article XIV: M.T.B.A. CONSTITUTION.

This Statute and its By-Laws were first adopted by the Association in September 1975.

This Constitution was last amended at the Annual General Meeting held on 22nd February 2009.

The By-Laws were last amended at a Board of Directors Meeting in session, held on 27th February 2008, with all of its members present.