

OCEANIA POWERLIFTING FEDERATION

CONSTITUTION



1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1 Name & Composition

- 1.1.1. The Oceania Powerlifting Federation Inc., hereinafter also called the “**OPF**” is an organization founded in 2003 and a society incorporated in accordance with the laws of New Zealand.
- 1.1.2. The OPF is composed of the OPF Executive and also affiliated national federations from the International Powerlifting Federation Oceania region, being entities which govern the sport of powerlifting in their respective nation. Only one national federation per nation shall be entitled or allow to affiliate to the OPF

1.2 Region & Headquarters

- 1.2.1. The region of Oceania is the whole of those nations established as being within the Oceania region. Only national federations from the Oceania region shall be entitled or allowed to affiliate to the OPF.

The Headquarters of the Confederation shall be based in the City of the reigning President and may only be transferred by a resolution of Congress.

1.3 Affiliations

- 1.3.1. The OPF will maintain affiliations with relevant Powerlifting and other sporting bodies, as determined by the OPF Committee. Whatever it's affiliations, the OPF's Constitution, ByLaws, Policies & Rules shall stand; should there be any conflict of Constitutions, ByLaws, Policies or Rules, the OPF's Constitution, ByLaws, Policies and Rules shall prevail.

1.4 Objectives

- 1.4.1. The union of all National Powerlifting Federations in the Oceania region
- 1.4.2. The fostering of new National Powerlifting Federations in the Oceania region
- 1.4.3. To apply standardized Technical Rules for the sport in the Oceania region
- 1.4.4. The creation & maintenance of a system for approving & recognizing Oceania Powerlifting Records
- 1.4.5. To establish administrative & technical committees from within the OPF
- 1.4.6. To establish, define & enforce the rules for the governance of powerlifting in the Oceania region
- 1.4.7. The eradication of the use of illicit drugs in the sport of Powerlifting, that in accordance with the anti-doping mandates of the the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)
- 1.4.8. To promote, sanction & supervise Oceania regional competitions including the

Pacific Games, Oceania Powerlifting Championships & Oceania Bench Press Championships and any new Regional Championships.

1.4.9. To instigate & conduct programmes for the development of powerlifting in the Oceania region

1.4.10. Conduct of an OPF Annual General Meeting of affiliated national federations.

2. NON-DISCRIMINATION

2.1 Any political or religious discussions or demonstrations within the OPF are forbidden.

2.2 In the operations of the OPF, no distinction is to be made between countries & individuals on the basis of race, colour, gender, religion or political belief or affiliation

3. OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE OPF

3.1 The official language of the OPF is English

3.2 All publications, minutes & reports of the OPF will be English. Meetings of the OPF shall be held in English

4. MEMBERS

4.1 Membership

The membership of the OPF shall include national federations governing the sport of powerlifting in their respective nation. The OPF can only recognize and have as a Member one national federation from any one nation.

There are two categories of OPF membership –

4.1.1. Full Member. A national federation which has been admitted as a provision member of the OPF and whose application for full membership has then been subsequently approved by the OFC in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

A Full Member is entitled to exercise all of the rights and privileges available to a Full Member, as follows:

- (a) To take part in General Meetings and to exercise their right to speak and vote;
- (b) To put forward agenda items for inclusion in the agenda of a General Meeting;
- (c) To nominate candidates for election to the Executive;
- (d) To take part in the competitions organised by OPF;
- (e) To take part in organized competitions;
- (f) To exercise all other rights arising out of this Constitution.

Voting powers are further classified into categories in accordance with Article 7.6.2 hereof and voting rights at General Meeting are determined in

accordance with such classification.

- 4.1.2. **Provisional Member.** A nation, not having been a member of the OPF in the current or prior calendar year may be admitted as a Provisional Member of the OPF.

A Provisional Member may only compete in Oceania Championships by decision of the OPF Executive. A Provisional Member shall have no rights to vote at OPF General Meetings. The Executive will have the authority to determine the amount of annual subscription required from a Provisional Member. A nation may only be a Provisional Member of the OPF for a maximum period of one year

4.2 Application for Membership

- 4.2.1 A national powerlifting federation may apply for provisional membership by means of written application to the OPF Executive. The application may be accepted, or not, by decision of the OPF Executive.
- 4.2.2 Admission of a Provisional Members to Full Membership will be determined by the OPF at the next General Meeting of the OPF convened after a National Federation is admitted to Provisional Membership.

4.3 Obligations of Provisional and Full Members

- 4.3.1 Every Member of the OPF has the following obligations:
- (a) To comply fully with Constitution, regulations, Code of Ethics, directives and decisions of the OPF (as are in place from time to time) at all times;
 - (b) To take part in competitions organised by the OPF;
 - (c) To pay their membership subscriptions, as required by the OPF;
 - (d) To respect the Laws of Powerlifting;
 - (e) To ensure that their own members comply with the Constitution, regulations, Code of Ethics, directives and decisions of the OPS (as they may exist from time to time) at all times;
 - (f) To comply fully with all other duties arising from these Statutes and other regulations.
 - (g) TO fully abide by the objectives of the OPF as stated herein.
- 4.3.2 Violation of the above-mentioned obligations by any Member may lead to sanctions provided for in this Constitution.

4.4 Suspension of Membership

- 4.4.1 The Executive Committee may suspend a Member that violates its obligations as a Member with immediate effect and on such terms and conditions as it sees fit. The suspension shall last until the next Annual General Meeting, unless the Executive Committee has lifted the suspension in the interim or the suspension has otherwise been lifted in accordance with the provisions contained herein.
- 4.4.2 A suspension shall be confirmed at the next Annual General Meeting by a two-thirds majority of the votes taken. If it is not confirmed, the suspension is automatically lifted.

- 4.4.3 A suspended Member shall lose its Membership rights.
- 4.4.4 Other Members may not entertain sporting contact with a suspended Member.
- 4.4.5 The Executive Committee may impose further sanctions.
- 4.4.6 In discharging its powers under this clause 4.4 the Executive Committee shall at all times abide by the Rules of Natural Justice.

4.5 Expulsion from Membership

- 4.5.1 The OPF may at General Meeting expel a Member:
 - (a) if it fails to fulfil its financial obligations towards OPF; or
 - (b) if it seriously or repeatedly violates the CONstitution, regulations, code of Ethics or decisions of the OPF (as they exist from time to time); or
 - (c) if it loses the status of the Federation representing Powerlifting in its country.
- 4.5.2 The presence of an absolute majority of Full Members at the General Meeting is necessary for an expulsion to be valid, and the motion for expulsion must be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the votes taken.
- 4.5.3 In discharging its powers under this clause 4.5 the OPF will at all times abide by the Rules of Natural Justice.

4.6 Resignation from Membership

- 4.6.1 A Member may resign from OPF with effect from the end of the calendar year.
- 4.6.2 Notice of resignation must reach the general secretary of the OPF no later than six months before the end of the calendar year and be sent by registered letter.
- 4.6.3 The resignation is not valid until the Member wishing to resign has fulfilled its outstanding financial obligations towards OFC and its other Members.

5. GOVERNANCE

- 5.1 The OPF is governed, in the first instance, by its member nations meeting in Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting. In between such meetings and as regards matters not specifically delegated by this Constitution to General Meetings, the Executive of the OPF shall govern the OPF. In particular the OPF Executive has the power to -
 - 5.1.1. Admit Provisional Members of the OPF.
 - 5.1.2. Control the income, expenditure & property of the OPF.
 - 5.1.3. Conduct the day-today affairs & business of the OPF.
 - 5.1.4. Determine disciplinary matters in accordance with the principles of natural justice.

6. THE EXECUTIVE

6.1 The OPF Executive shall consist of the following office-bearers –

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Committee Members (maximum of two)

6.2 Meetings

6.2.1 The Executive shall meet as & when necessary, on the basis of a calling of a meeting by the President or a written request by 2/3 of the current serving members of the Executive.

6.2.2 Meetings of the Executive may take the form of in-person attendance, or telephone or electronic conferences. The President shall chair all meetings of the Executive, in the President's absence the Vice-President shall chair any such meeting of the Executive and in the absence of both the President & Vice-President those in attendance at that Executive meeting shall elect a Chair.

6.2.3 All matters at an Executive meeting shall be decided by a simple majority vote of those present, with the President having the casting vote in the event of a tie.

6.2.4 A quorum for the conduct of an Executive meeting of the OPF shall be 4 persons in attendance

6.3 Vacancies – In the event of death, resignation, ineligibility or removal of an Executive member, a vacancy on the Executive shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Executive. Members of the Executive appointed in that manner shall remain until the next election of office-bearers at an Annual General Meeting of the OPF

6.4 Duties – The duties of the members of the Executive include the following

6.4.1. President

- (a) to provide leadership in the long-term & day-to-day activities of the OPF, delegating responsibility for the completion of tasks & making necessary contact with outside agencies to

- conduct OPF business;
- (b) to represent the OPF in its international affiliations
- (c) to maintain order & chair meetings of the Executive of the OPF;
- (d) to chair all annual & special general meetings of the OPF;
- (e) to serve as an ex-officio member of all committees of the OPF

6.4.2. Vice-President

Such duties as assigned by the President and in the absence of the President to carry out the duties of the President.

6.4.3. Secretary

- (a) make proper arrangements for keeping the records of the OPF and the AGM;
- (b) issue all official notices of all OPF meetings;
- (c) keep a complete record of competitions held under the auspices of the OPF. These records shall include the results of national championships, newsletters and magazines;
- (d) serve as Secretary of the AGM and at any special meetings or hearings of the OPF;
- (e) certify as a "Provisional Member" any applying nation who submits the proper fees and credentials, until such time as the AGM shall deliberate such membership;
- (f) delegate any of the aforementioned duties to an "assistant secretary" appointed by the Executive or to such assistants

6.4.4 Treasurer

- (a) receive all monies due to the OPF and deposit it to accounts in the name of the OPF;
- (b) sign all cheques, notes and drafts together with one other signatures as provided by the OPF Constitution;
- (c) pay all bills approved by the duly authorised officer or by the Committee, provided it is within the authorised current budget of the OPF;
- (d) when requested, hand over to the Finance Secretary for auditor or other purposes, all monies, accounts, books, papers, vouchers and records pertaining to his office;
- (e) present financial statements to the annual general meeting. Audit of OPF accounts is to be made if funds permit or the OPF executive council orders it
- (f) be responsible for collecting all fees due to the OPF;
- (g) be responsible for issuing an invoice and collecting any penalties;
- (h) present financial statements to the Annual General Meeting;
- (i) arrange for audit of the OPF accounts as per relevant New Zealand law;
- (j) be responsible for collecting all fees due to the OPF.

6.4.5. Committee Members

- (a) take an active part in the OPF Executive work and carry out such duty as assigned to them by the President;
- (b) represent the OPF in his region at national and international championships and meetings;

- (c) supervise and lead the regional federation and organise yearly regional meetings and championships;
- (d) contact and inform potential new member nations in his region;
- (e) represent his region at the OPF Executive Meetings and the Congress;
- (f) make suggestions to the various OPF Committees
- (g) plan and control development programs within his region.

6.5 Elections

- 6.5.1 A candidate for the position of the President or Executive Committee member must:
- (a) hold office within their respective national association at the date of the election; and
 - (b) shall have played an active role in their national association for two of the last five years before being nominated as a candidate.
- 6.5.2 The names of candidates for any office may be submitted by any Full Member and shall reach the General Secretary not later than twenty one (21) calendar days before the date of the Annual General Meeting at which the election is to take place.
- 6.5.3 The Secretary shall notify the Members of the names of the proposed candidates at least 21 days before the date of the relevant Annual General Meeting.
- 6.5.4 Election to a position on the Executive Committee shall be determined by a majority vote of full member nations only, at the Annual General Meeting of the OPF deemed to be the final General meeting held in each fourth year.
- 6.5.5 Elected members of the Executive shall serve on the Executive Committee for a period of four years, until the next relevant Annual General Meeting of the OPF, at which further elections shall be held. The exception for this is in Article 6.5.
- 6.5.6 The President and members of the Committee may be reelected.
- 6.5.7 If during the four-year term an Executive Committee member resigns or no longer holds office within their respective national association he shall no longer be a member of the Executive Committee and a vacancy exists and the Executive Committee shall appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term.
- 6.6 Non-Executive Officers** – the Executive may appoint non-executive officers, to carry out defined tasks for the OPF. By invitation of the President they may attend meetings of the Executive but without vote & with voice only on matters relating to their respective offices

7. GENERAL MEETINGS

- 7.1** The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the OPF shall be held annually one day before the start of the Oceania Powerlifting Championships or in the event of no

Championships being held, at a time determined by the Executive.

7.2 Notice – Not less than thirty (30) days notice must be given of any special or annual meeting of the OPF. The Secretary will airmail or email a notice and agenda to all named delegates or their national federation. A notice sent to the last address known to the Secretary complies with this requirement. The official agenda for the OPF AGM must be received by all members at least twenty one (21) days before the AGM takes place. Items not in the agenda cannot be considered in the AGM.

(22) Agenda – At all annual meetings of the OPF the following will be the order of business:

1. Roll Call
2. Delinquent nations
3. Minutes of the last AGM
4. Presidents Report
5. Treasurers Report
6. Secretary's Report
7. Elections
8. Action on proposed amendments
9. New Member Applicants
10. Future Championships
11. Any Other Business
12. Adjournment

7.5 Quorum – At all meetings of the OPF, a quorum will consist of 5 member nations or forty per cent of nations in full membership.

7.6 Attendance & Voting

7.6.1 All member & provisional member nations may attend & speak at an AGM, via up to 2 representatives. A Nation may appoint a representative or representatives to vote on their behalf, however the representative(s) must present their credentials in writing showing they have been duly authorized and confirming their identity. Only one of those representatives may express any vote(s) that the member nation may have. Members of the Executive may also attend and speak at the AGM. Voting at the AGM is by show of hands unless a secret poll is called for; a simple majority of those votes decides, except in the case of Constitutional Amendments where a 2/3 majority of those votes present is required. In the event of a tie the President has the casting vote.

7.6.2 The total number of votes that may be cast are as follows:

- (a) provisional members - no votes
- (b) full & financial members - three votes for those certified as Category A members, two votes for those certified as Category B members, one vote for those certified as Category C members.

7.6.3 Member nations shall be certified as Category A, B or C by the President as part of Item 1 Roll Call and certification shall be on the basis of amount of membership fee paid for that calendar year

7.7 Special General Meetings – Special general Meetings of the OPF may be held

at the request of the President or on the written request of 2/3 of the full member nations of the OPF. Such request must specify the nature of the business to be considered at the Special General Meeting and only that notified business can be conducted at the Meeting. The Special General Meeting must be held no less than 30 days and no more than 60 days after the receipt by the President of any request to hold the meeting. Quorum, attendance and voting rules at the Special General Meeting apply as per Articles 7.5 and 7.6.

8. SUBSCRIPTION & FEES

The AGM shall determine the amount of the annual subscription to the OPF. The amount of the subscription shall include any amount due for international affiliations. The annual subscription for a year is due by 31st December in the year prior and if a member nation has not paid its annual subscriptions by 31st March its membership of the OPF will automatically cease at that point. Where a member nation has not paid its annual subscription to the OPF in the period 1st January to 31st March it remains a member for the period up to 31st March, but cannot participate in any General Meetings of the OPF or any OPF Championships

9. DOPING CONTROL

9.1 The OPF endorses, subscribes to and follows the Doping Rules of the World Anti-Doping Agency. This includes recognition of suspensions and other penalties for doping offences and all other Doping Rules, which apply in the OPF equally as they apply as per WADA's rules

9.2 All OPF Championships shall be drug-tested by an independent agency & laboratory in accordance with WADA rules & procedures. All costs associated with the provision of such drug-testing arrangements shall be met by the nation or entity promoting the Championships & no cost shall fall upon the OPF in respect of that drug-testing.

10. COMMITTEES

10.1 DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

10.1.1 The Executive Committee of the OPF shall also serve as the Disciplinary Committee of the OPF.

10.1.2 The function of this body shall be governed by the OPF Disciplinary Code (as is issued by the OPF Executive Committee and is in place from time to time).

10.1.3 The committee shall pass decisions only by determination of at least three members.

10.1.4 The committee may pronounce the sanctions described in herein and in the OPF Disciplinary Code on Members, Officials, powerlifting participants and other persons whose conduct impacts upon the operations of the OPF and the sport of Powerlifting in the Oceania region.

10.2 ETHICS COMMITTEE

10.2.1 The Executive Committee of the OPF shall also serve as the Ethics Committee of the OPF.

10.2.2 The function of the Ethics Committee shall be governed by the OPC Code of Ethics as is issued by the Executive Committee from time to time.

10.2.3 The Ethics Committee shall take decisions if at least three members are present.

10.2.4 The Ethics Committee may pronounce the sanctions described in Constitution, the Code of Ethics and Disciplinary Code on Members, Officials and Participants.

10.3 APPEALS

10.3.1 Save as otherwise provided for in this Constitution, decisions pronounced by the OPF at AGM, the Executive Committee, the Disciplinary or the Ethics Committees shall be irrevocable and binding on all the parties concerned. This provision is subject to appeals lodged with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), which is the only external body to the OPF recognized by the OPF as having jurisdiction in disputes between the OPF and its members, officials, participants and others directly affected by decisions referred to in this clause 10.

