

AITJ

International Association of Journalist Tennis Players

Statutes

I. Name, Seat and Purpose

Art. 1 The International Association of Journalist Tennis Players AITJ (in the following paragraphs called AITJ) is an association under Art. 60 ff. Swiss Civil Code (ZGB) registered in (Switzerland).

Art. 2 The headquarter is where the current President or the General Secretary or the Treasurer lives., Switzerland, is the registered office of the AITJ. This registration of the AITJ is a necessary legal formality.

Art. 3 The tasks of the AITJ are sustaining and fostering personal links among colleagues of the international press and promoting good relationships between countries. For that purpose the General Assembly choose every year a member country to organize the World Championships for Journalist Tennis Players. There can be other events too.

Art. 4 The AITJ was founded in 1978 in Venice, Italy. It is an association supported by the International Sports Press Association (AIPS) with the collaboration of international and national press Associations.

Art. 5 The AITJ is neutral and sets aside considerations of politics, nationality and religion.

II. Membership

A. Kinds of the membership

Art. 6 The AITJ has the membership categories of registred countries, active countries and Honorary members (individuals).

B. Membership and participation at matches

Art. 7 a Registered countries are officially registered with the AITJ and are specified on the AITJ website.

Art. 7 b Journalists approved to participate in World Championships and other events of the AITJ, must register themselves on the AITJ website and become a member of a country, where they are citizens (passport). Players can only play for one country at time. Countries are responsible for granting membership only to journalists who are approved to participate. The Board of the AITJ will validate such members.

Art. 8 If a approved Journalist participates in World Championships (tournament and/or event programme) the registered country of this participant becomes an active member with the right to vote at the General Assembly which takes place during the World Championships.

Art. 9 Country members allowing approved Journalists to participate at the events of the AITJ accept the statutes, rules and regulations of the AITJ. With the application on World Championships and other events of the AITJ and the personal registration on the AITJ website approved Journalists accept automatically the statutes, rules and regulations of the AITJ.

Art. 10 Honorary members are individuals deserving the gratitude of the AITJ for their contribution to the association. Proposals can be submitted to the AITJ Board. The AITJ Board will decide on the nomination to the General Assembly. Honorary members are appointed by the General Assembly. Former presidents become Honorary presidents.

Art. 11 All professional journalists who have a legal working contract on a full time or part time base, earn their living mostly by their journalistic activities (50% or over), may become regular members of the AITJ. Everybody who works as a journalist at present or worked at the trade of journalism for at least 10 years in the past and is not a professional journalist at present, may also continue to be or become an active member; also retired journalists. Current spokesman or women or those employed in a press office or public relations office who have not worked for the past 10 years as a journalist can apply to the AITJ Board to play for a particular country. The AITJ Board regulates the details in the regulation for members.

Art. 12 Current tennis professionals, even if they work as a TV commentator, can not participate on World Championships or other events of the AITJ. Former tennis professionals can participate only under special conditions as the consideration of classifying by ATP or WTA. The Board of the AITJ regulates the details in the regulation for members and in the tournament rules.

C. Rights and Obligations

Art. 13 All countries who can furnish proof can send particular players to the World Championships and other AITJ events.

Art. 14. All countries who send approved Journalists to World Championships are authorised to vote at the General Assembly. It is not possible for one country to be represented by another.

Art. 15 Countries may only send approved Journalists to World Championships and other events of the AITJ.

Art. 16 Journalists who want to participate in World Championships or other events of the AITJ have to furnish written proof of participation by passport, presscard, member's card of the National Press Association, copy of the work contract, confirmation of the employer etc. The AITJ Board regulates the details in the regulation for members.

Art. 17 Disallowed members (countries) and disallowed journalists (participants) are welcome at World Championships and other events of the AITJ only as visitors. They are neither approved to play in the tournament nor approved to join the official programme of events. They have no right to vote in the General Assembly.

Art. 18 Honorary members and Honorary presidents have the same rights and obligations as the approved journalists of an active country.

Art. 19 Honorary members and Honorary presidents cannot be elected to the AITJ Board. Current Presidents and Board members cannot become Honorary members or presidents.

Art. 20 The participants of World Championships and other events of the AITJ travel and take part in the tournaments at his own risk. Everybody must have accident and liability insurance in accordance with the rules of his own country.

Art. 21 The participants at World Championships and other events of the AITJ are obligated to pay the AITJ fee before the start of every single event. The General Assembly specifies annually the level of the fees.

Art. 22 The collection of the AITJ fee is made by the AITJ Board and the Captains. First the fee will be collected by the national captains for each team and handed over by the captains to the Board. No participant will be allowed to start playing before their captain has handed over the full amount of the team. The General Assembly specifies annually the level of the fees for the participants at World Championships and other AITJ events. The member contribution of the active countries consists of the AITJ fee, which approved journalists of the respective countries pay before they participate at World Championships and other AITJ events.

Art. 23 If participants can not start to play or continue to play at World Championships and other events of the AITJ, they will have no requirement to get back the fee.

D. Completion of the membership

Art. 24 The AITJ Board can exclude countries and journalists who act against the statutes, the resolutions, the interests of the AITJ, who harm the reputation of the AITJ, the sport of tennis and journalism generally or do not follow their financial obligations to the AITJ or the organizer. An excluded member or an excluded participant has the right to appeal to the next General Assembly after the exclusion. The appeal does not have delaying effect. The General Assembly has the final right to decide the appeal on an absolute majority.

III. Organisation

Art. 25 The bodies of the association are:

§ General Assembly

§ Board

§ Auditors

A. The General Assembly

Art. 26 The statutory General Assembly takes place annually at the AITJ World Championships. The present members (countries) are represented by the Captain or a delegated team member. Each country has one voice. It is not possible for one country to be represented by another. The invitation with a settled agenda must be written delivered to the present captains of the countries at least 48 hours before the General Assembly will held. The General Assembly can be held also by internet. Also votes can take place online.

Art. 27 An extraordinary General Assembly can be called up by a resolution of the AITJ Board or by a written desire of a fifth (1/5) of the registered members (countries). In this case all registered members (countries) are approved members, if they are specified as a member country on the AITJ website and are not disallowed at this moment. The AITJ Board it determines the point in time of execution. An extraordinary General Assembly can be held also by internet. Also votes can take place online.

Art. 28 The competences of the General Assembly are:

§ Permission of the minutes of the last General Assembly

§ Permission of the annual reports and the annual accounts

§ Permission of the budget

§ Appointment of the AITJ fee for World Championships and other events of the AITJ

§ Election of the Board and the Auditors

§ Revision of the statutes

§ Appointment of Honorary members

§ Take resolutions regarding requests of the members (countries) and the Board

§ Take resolutions regarding appeals of excluded members (countries) and individual journalists

§ Take resolutions regarding the dissolutions of the association

§ Vote for the venue of the annual AITJ World Championships

Art. 29 Requests of the members (countries) to the General Assembly must be communicated to the entire Board of the AITJ 14 days before. The General Assembly will enter a late request only, if the General Assembly agrees with a qualified majority of two thirds (2/3).

Art. 30 The General Assembly accepts resolutions with the absolute majority of all present and approved members (countries); half of the valid voices plus one. Accept the statutes prescribe expressly a certain quorum. Also the General Assembly accepts elections with the absolute majority of all present and approved members (countries). With equality of votes the voice of the president decides. A revision of the statutes must be discussed latest one month before the General Assembly and needs a qualified majority of two thirds (2/3) of the present and approved members (countries). Elections take place openly. One third (1/3) of the present and approved members (countries) can require a secret election. Resolutions and a revision of the statutes can be held also by internet. Also votes can take place online.

B. The Board

Art. 31 The Board is the executive body of the association. The Board represents the association. The Board runs the business of the AITJ as far as they do not fall into the authority of the General Assembly.

Art. 32 The Board consists of a minimum of three (3) persons (President, General Secretary, treasurer) and the maximum of nine (9) persons. The General Assembly elects the Board. The Board constitutes themselves exceptionally the President, the General Secretary and the Treasurer who get appointed by the General Assembly. The positions for election are:

§ 1 President

§ 1 General Secretary

§ 1 Treasurer

§ 2-3 Vicepresidents

§ 3-4 Board members

Art. 33 The term of office of the Board amounts to four (4) years, a re-election is possible. The President can be re-elected only one time (maximum of 8 years).

Art. 34 For the AITJ the President signs obligatory together with another member of the Board. Not regular single payments which are larger than 100 euros need to be approved by the Board of the AITJ.

Art. 35 The Board is resolutionable if more than a half (1/2) of the Board members are present. Resolutions are accepted with the absolute majority of the present voices. With equality of votes the voice of the president decides, in its absence the vicepresident who leads the meeting.

Art. 36 The Board is responsible for the following:

§ Determining the participants for World Championships and other events of the AITJ.

§ Monitoring of the order and discipline.

§ Settling of cases of complaint in connection with the request to the Board.

§ Preparing the tournament rules and members' regulation.

There exists a appeal right to the General Assembly against orders of the Board.

Art. 37 The AITJ Board issues obligatory tournament rules and member regulations to regulate the World Championships and other events of the AITJ.

C. The auditors

Art. 38 The General Assembly select two auditors from the approved journalists. The term of office amounts to two (2) years, a re-election is possible. Auditors can not be member of the Board.

Art. 39 The auditors approve the financial reporting, the balance, accounts and receipts. They write a report and make a request of acceptance of the annual report to the General Assembly.

IV. Finances

Art. 40 The term of the annual report of the AITJ is on 31. December. The annual report, the balance, the accounts and the budget have to be presented to the next obligatory General Assembly.

Art. 41 To cover the annual costs, the AITJ collects its fee at World Championships and other events of the AITJ, voluntary contributions and other income.

Art. 42 For the commitments of the AITJ only the property of the association is liable. Each personal adhesion is impossible.

V. Statute revision and dissolution

Art. 43 The ordinary and extraordinary General Assembly can revise the statutes. They need two third (2/3) of the votes of the present and approved members (countries) to revise the statutes. The ordinary and an extraordinary General Assembly can be held also by internet. Also votes can take place online.

Art. 44 The dissolution or the fusion is only possible by a special General Assembly for that reason. The Board or two third (2/3) of the registered and approved members (countries) can request such a General Assembly. The General Assembly decides with a majority of two third (2/3) of the present and approved members (countries). The Board will decide who will take responsibility in this situation (the receiver). Such an extraordinary General Assembly can be held also by internet. Also votes can take place online.

Art. 45 If cash asset remain after a dissolution of the AITJ, the cash asset is to be placed into services of journalism and be gone to an international organisation like „reporters without borders“.

The General Assembly of the AITJ in Belgrade has decided in 2010 that the associaton should be properly registered with new statutes. That's why an extraordinary General Assembly will vote about the available statutes during an event or by internet. The statutes come into force immeadiatley. They replace all earlier statutes of the AITJ.

Place, date, signature of the President and a Board member:

Place:

Date:

AITJ President Bojan Budja

AITJ Vicepresident Adalberto Minazzi

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- Tournament rules * (*in work*)
- Member regulation * (*in work*)

* The Board of the AITJ will specife the detailed rules and regulations.