



LA REFERENCE DES CONCOURS INTERNATIONAUX DE VIN

# **Statutes of the World Federation of Major International Wine and Spirits Competitions (VINO FED)**

## **CHAPTER 1 THE FEDERATION**

### **Article 1.- NAME / LOCATION / PERIOD OF VALIDITY**

1.1 Under the name of "World Federation of Major International Wine and Spirits Competitions" (hereinafter: the Federation), also known as VINO FED, an association has been established within the framework of Articles 60cc of the Swiss Civil Code.

1.2 The Federation's head office is located in Sierre (Valais, Switzerland).

1.3 Its validity is unlimited.

### **Article 2.- OBJECTIVES OF THE FEDERATION**

- To regroup in a Federation the organisations that run an international wine and spirits competition in accordance with the regulations of the International Organisation of Vine and Wine.
- To promote the exchange of information on the economic and technical administration of member wine and spirits competitions.
- To promote the value of wine and spirit competitions on an international scale.
- To protect the interests, development and advancement of its members.
- To coordinate the dates and places of the competitions.
- To make the common services available to its members.
- To provide consumers with a guarantee of the products awarded
- To encourage any other activity compatible with the objectives expressed in this article.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **THE MEMBERS**

#### **Article 3.-           CONDITIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Membership of the Federation is open to any organisation which runs one or more international wine and spirits competitions and which meets the requirements indicated in the Protocol of Membership of a New Competition, contained in Annex 2 of the Internal Rules of the Federation. In addition, it must also meet the criteria mentioned in Article 4 of these statutes.

#### **Article 4.-           THE CRITERIA FOR AN INTERNATIONAL WINE AND SPIRITS COMPETITION**

An international wine and spirits competition is a competition that meets the following criteria:

**Criterion n° 1:** The international wine and spirits competition should aim for maximum international representation of producing countries. A minimum of 8 producer countries must be represented in the case of general competitions and a minimum of 5 producer countries must be represented for specific category competitions, in order for these to be considered as international. Competitions must aim to have in competition more than 20% of products of foreign origin to the country in which the competition takes place in the case of general competitions, and at least 15% for specific category competitions.

**Criterion n° 2:** An international wine and spirits competition is a competition that must be carried out in compliance with the rules of the Federation, in order to guarantee:

- The objectivity of the competition;
- Integrity in the sample selection and evaluation process;
- The degree of qualification required for jury members;
- A reliable procedure for deciding on the quality of product qualification;
- An external control of the organisation to ensure the smooth running of the competition.

All this, subject to the approval of the General Assembly of the Federation.

**Criterion n° 3:** The recognized international competition must not award a number of rewards exceeding 30% of the quantity of products in competition, all types of prizes included.

**Criterion n° 4:** The wine and spirit tasting jury must be composed of at least 5 members, with a majority of international members.

In case of force majeure (pandemic, travel restrictions, etc.) and with the prior agreement of the OIV, it is possible to deviate from the rule of most international juries.

## **Article 5.- RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS**

5.1 Each member must pay annual fees on a regular basis as requested by the Permanent Secretariat.

5.2 Unless there is good reason, a member must participate in the Annual General Assembly either through its official representative, its alternate representative, in writing, or by written mandate given to another member.

5.3 Each member must inform the Permanent Secretariat of the dates and places where its competition takes place.

## **Article 6.- RIGHTS OF MEMBERS**

6.1 Acceptance of an international competition as a member of the Federation entitles it to present itself as a member, to use the distinctive marks of the Federation and to benefit from all advantages resulting from agreements that the Federation may conclude with other organisations.

6.2 In general, members of the Federation are beneficiaries of all the rights available to the Federation as an organisation.

## **Article 7.- DISCIPLINARY MEASURES AND EXCLUSION**

7.1 When a member no longer fulfils the conditions required for membership of the Federation, or if the respectability of the Federation so requires, the Executive Committee, after having heard the explanations of the member concerned, may propose to the General Assembly to exclude the member, which must be accepted by two thirds of the members. The proposal for exclusion must be notified to the member concerned in writing, stating the reasons for exclusion.

7.2 A member who fails to pay its annual fees for two years in a row may be excluded from the Federation, following a decision of the General Assembly.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **ORGANS**

#### **Article 8.-            ORGANS**

The Federation is made up of the following organs:

- the General Assembly;
- the Executive Committee;
- the Supervisory Body.

### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

#### **Article 9.-            GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING**

9.1 The General Assembly of the Federation is the supreme power of the Federation and is held at least once a year, in principle within the framework of the competition of a member of the Federation. Extraordinary assemblies may also be organized whenever the needs of the Federation so require.

In case of serious impossibility to gather the members physically, the general assembly shall be held by electronic means.

9.2 The General Assembly is convened by the Permanent Secretary or by the President at least two weeks in advance.

#### **Article 10.-           COMPETENCES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

10.1 The General Assembly can only validly deliberate if two thirds of the members of the Federation participate, either through their official representative or their alternate representative. A member who is unable to be present may assert in writing its opinion and votes on a specific item on the agenda or order of business.

10.2 A member may be represented by another member by a signed agreement transmitted to the Secretariat before the General Assembly. However, a member may not represent more than one other member.

10.3 The General Assembly takes decisions on the following matters:

- a) Continuation of the Federation or not;
- b) Amendment of statutes and rules of procedure;
- c) Approval of new members;
- d) Exclusion of members;
- e) Designation of the President;

- f) Designation of the Vice-President and other members of the Executive Committee;
- g) Nomination of the Permanent Secretary;
- h) Determination of the annual budget;
- i) Establishment of annual contributions;
- j) Approval of the accounts;
- k) Determining the Federation's strategy;
- l) Any decision on matters referred to it by the Executive Committee.

## **Article 11.- DECISIONS AND VOTES AT A GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING**

11.1 Decisions are taken after joint consultation among the members, who may express their opinion either through their official representative, their deputy representative, or through a mandate given in written to another member.

11.2 Voting during a meeting is by rising hands, unless a member requests a secret ballot.

11.3 The counting of votes, including the counting of secret ballots, is carried out by the Permanent Secretary.

## **THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **Article 12.- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

12.1 The Executive Committee consists of 3 to 7 members, including the President, the Vice-President and the Deputy Vice-President. They are elected for an initial term of four years and may be re-elected for successive two-year terms. It is assisted by a Permanent Secretariat.

12.2 It is the executive body of the General Assembly. It is responsible, under the authority of the President, for the implementation of the decisions and guidelines laid down by the General Assembly.

12.3 The Executive Committee meets at the request of the President or the Permanent Secretary.

12.4 In the event of a vacancy, due to resignation or inability to serve, the member's seat is filled by a member of the Federation until the next General Assembly.

### **Article 13.- INTERNAL RULES**

The Executive Committee may issue directives for the practical functioning of the Federation, in the form of rules of procedure.

These rules must be ratified by the following General Assembly.

All members shall undertake to respect them.

## **SUPERVISORY BODIES**

### **Article 14.- VERIFICATION OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR**

14.1 During the General Assembly, the members appoint a supervisory body to audit the Federation's accounts. This body cannot be elected from among the members of the Executive Committee.

14.2 The supervisory body prepares a report which will be communicated to the members at the time of the General Assembly.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **MANDATES OF THE PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENTS AND THE PERMANENT SECRETARY**

### **Article 15.- THE PRESIDENT**

15.1 The president is the representative of the Federation, he/ she is appointed for an initial period of four years and may be re-elected for successive two-year periods.

15.2 He/ she is responsible for the implementation of decisions taken by the General Assembly or the Executive Committee.

15.3 Under the control of the General Assembly of members, he/ she ensures the smooth running of the Federation.

15.4 If present, he/ she presides over all meetings of the General Assembly, as well as those of the Executive Committee.

### **Article 16.- THE VICE-PRESIDENTS**

16.1 The two Vice-Presidents (Vice-President and Deputy Vice-President) are appointed for an initial period of four years and may be re-elected for successive

two-year periods. The Vice-President exercises the powers and functions conferred on him/ her by the President or the General Assembly of the Federation. In the event of resignation, abandonment or necessity, he/ she shall be replaced by the Deputy Vice-President.

16.2 In the absence of the President or by delegation, the Vice-President or, as the case may be, the Deputy Vice-President may exercise the functions of the President.

## **Article 17.- THE PERMANENT SECRETARY**

17.1 The Permanent Secretary is in charge of taking care of the Federation and is appointed for this purpose by the General Assembly; the Secretary has no voting rights in the assemblies and can be remunerated by decision of the Executive Committee.

17.2 Acts as secretary at the meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee.

17.3 It is his/ her duty to:

- a) Ensure that all members comply with the regulations;
- b) Ensure that members are well and promptly informed;
- c) Draw up the calendar of members' competitions and send a copy to them;
- d) Collect quotations, examine them and issue the relevant invoices;
- e) Manage the Federation's annual operational budget and its accounts;
- f) Manage new memberships and handle the constitution of their files;
- g) Establish, after consultation with the Executive Committee, the agenda for meetings of the General Assembly or any other meeting;
- h) Present an annual activity report to the General Assembly;
- i) Manage the Federation's communication;
- j) Draft the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings.

## **CHAPTER 5 RESOURCES**

### **Article 18.- RESOURCES**

The resources of the Federation come from:

- the contributions paid by members;
- donations;
- sponsorships;

- public and private subsidies;
- other resources authorized by law.

**Article 19.- MEMBERSHIP FEES**

Membership fees are defined and approved by the General Assembly.

**CHAPTER 6  
VARIOUS DISPOSALS**

**Article 20.- FINANCIAL PERIOD**

The financial year of the Federation ends on 31 December of each year.

**Article 21.- ETHICS**

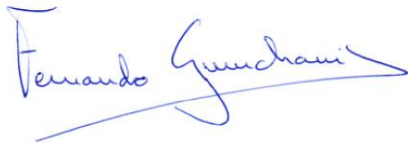
The members of the Federation undertake to apply in good faith the spirit and philosophy behind this Federation.

**Article 22.- ENTRY INTO FORCE**

The present statutes were adopted by the General Assembly constituted on 23 May 2015 and amended at the General Assemblies of 26 August 2021 in Sierre and 31 May 2023 in Château Belá.

They replace all previous regulations concerning the Federation.

Adopted by the General Assembly of 31 May 2023 in Château Belá (Slovakia).



The President: Fernando Gurucharri



The Secretary: Fabienne Bruttin

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Chapter 1</b>	<b>The Federation</b>	
Article 1	NAME/LOCATION/PERIOD OF VALIDITY.....	1
Article 2	OBJECTIVES OF THE FEDERATION .....	1
<b>Chapter 2</b>	<b>The members</b>	
Article 3	CONDITIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP .....	2
Article 4	THE CRITERIA FOR AN INTERNATIONAL WINE AND SPIRITS COMPETITIONS .....	2
Article 5	RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS .....	3
Article 6	MEMBER RIGHTS .....	3
Article 7	DISCIPLINARY MEASURES AND EXCLUSION .....	3
<b>Chapter 3</b>	<b>ORGANS</b>	
Article 8	ORGANS.....	4
	<b>General Assembly</b>	
Article 9	GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING .....	4
Article 10	COMPETENCES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY .....	4
Article 11	DECISIONS AND VOTES AT A MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY .....	5
	<b>The Executive Committee</b>	
Article 12	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE .....	5
Article 13	INTERNAL RULES .....	6
	<b>Supervisory bodies</b>	
Article 14	VERIFICATION OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR .....	6
<b>Chapter 4</b>	<b>Mandates of the President, the Vice-Presidents and the Permanent Secretary</b>	
Article 15	THE PRESIDENT .....	6
Article 16	THE VICE-PRESIDENTS .....	7
Article 17	THE PERMANENT SECRETARY .....	7
<b>Chapter 5</b>	<b>Resources</b>	
Article 18	RESOURCES.....	8
Article 19	MEMBERSHIP FEES.....	8
<b>Chapter 6</b>	<b>Various Disposals</b>	
Article 20	FINANCIAL PERIOD.....	8
Article 21	ETHICS.....	8
Article 22	ENTRY INTO FORCE .....	8