

# ITF-ENGLAND CHARTER

Amended 18<sup>th</sup> November 2012

## PREAMBLE

This charter constitutes the essence of this agreement. The identity, purpose, objects, decision making methods, are based on the concepts of fairness, empathy and freedom and must be observed, foremost, and throughout.

We, the practitioners of Taekwon-Do, recognize that we are forever students of General Choi, Hong Hi, the Father and Founder of Taekwon-Do and it is our duty to serve the art of authentic Taekwon-Do and to be guided by its principles, as described in the Encyclopaedia of Taekwon-Do authored by him. We must never compromise these principles and must endeavour to protect these principles to allow Taekwon-Do to be passed on in its purest form.

We should endeavour to dedicate ourselves to the art in order to develop our physical and mental discipline to improve our health, nourish our intellect, educate our members and the public and enlarge our spiritual realm, thus being in a position to aid others in the cause of justice thereby promoting social ethics, morals, and empathy thereby helping to build a more peaceful society.

We recognise that all students of the art are subject to the same rules of conduct and judged according to the same criteria regardless of their stations in life, their origins, and their religious convictions thereby demonstrating fairness, believing in the essential equality and fellowship of mankind.

We shall observe the 5 tenets of Taekwon-Do namely, Courtesy, Integrity, Perseverance, Self-Control and Indomitable Spirit and we are expected to behave at all times in accordance with the established standards of Taekwon-Do etiquette.

## ARTICLE 1 - IDENTITY

- i. The group shall be known as ITF England (hereinafter referred to as 'The Association') and is a non-political, not for profit, democratic organization of unlimited duration which does not recognize differences of stations of life, race, religion, sex or politics. It shall operate as a national association based in England and be affiliated to The International Taekwon-Do Federation founded by General Choi Hong Hi, herein after referred to as the 'ITF'.

## ARTICLE 2 - PURPOSE

- i. The purpose of The Association is to follow the concepts of Taekwon-Do as described in the Taekwon-Do Encyclopaedia and to educate its members in the following **Key Aspects** of Taekwon-Do:

- a) 'The Do' – the way of life
  - (i) Maintaining and improving health
  - (ii) Developing character
  - (iii) And ultimately developing society
  
- b) Art of Self-Defence
  - (i) Using logical discipline
  - (ii) Using scientific discipline
  - (iii) Using mental discipline
  - (iv) Using physical discipline
  
- c) Aesthetic Art
  - (i) Displaying beauty of the physical form
  - (ii) Displaying graceful and powerful movements
  - (iii) Displaying rhythmical and harmonious expression
  
- d) Sport
  - (i) Taekwon-Do as an exercise
  - (ii) Taekwon-Do as a recreation
  - (iii) Through competition showing sportsmanship and camaraderie

### **ARTICLE 3 - OBJECTIVES**

- i. The objectives of The Association, on the condition that they remain consistent with the purpose of The Association, are:
  - a) To proactively run The Association proficiently in accordance with the Article 2 - Purpose
  - b) To recognise its various members
  - c) To develop its members in the key aspects of Taekwon-Do, especially in the area of cooperation.
  - d) To educate its members in the key aspects of Taekwon-Do.
  - e) To honour the members' privileges and rights to which they are entitled.
  - f) To protect the members from unfair practices within the scope of Taekwon-Do.
  - g) To remain affiliated to the ITF and act as a national association in England.
  - h) To fulfil the responsibilities of The Association as an affiliate of the ITF as prescribed in the ITF Constitution (see Appendix 1) and ITF Byelaws (see Appendix 2)

### **ARTICLE 4 – MEMBERSHIP**

- ii. Membership of The Association shall be granted to any individual Taekwon-Do practitioner or group of Taekwon-Do practitioners that agree to abide by the terms and conditions of

membership. The terms and conditions must include agreement to this Charter and the Byelaws of The Association (herein after referred to as 'The Byelaws').

- iii. The Byelaws shall specify the various classes of membership and describe the rights and responsibilities of each class of membership which will be based on freedom, fairness and justice.
- iv. The voting rights shall be given to a particular class of member who has fulfilled a reasonable probationary period to allow the member to develop experience in Taekwon-Do, become familiar with The Association, and demonstrate a certain degree of loyalty to The Association.
- v. The Association shall keep at least the minimum information required about its members necessary to promote the objects of The Association.

#### **ARTICLE 5 – OFFICERS**

- i. There shall be a President, Secretary and Treasurer of The Association.
- ii. There shall be other Officers of The Association as The Byelaws may prescribe.
- iii. The President, Secretary and Treasurer and any other Officers of The Association shall be elected by the voting members of The Association and shall hold office for a fixed period of time as prescribed in The Byelaws. The fixed period may be a minimum of two years and a maximum of five years.

#### **ARTICLE 6 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- i. The Board of Directors shall be made up of the officers of The Association and any other Directors as specified in the Byelaws. The Board of Directors shall have the authority of The Association between meetings of The Association, but may not enforce rules or take actions which contravene the Charter or The Byelaws.
- ii. The duty of the Board of Directors shall be to promote the objectives of The Association as described in this Charter and the specific duties shall be described in The Byelaws.
- iii. The Board of Directors may not enter into, and to give effect to, agreements or arrangements of any kind with other organisations whose objects contravene the Charter or The Byelaws.
- iv. The Board of Directors may appoint an Executive Committee which shall have the power of authority of the Board of Directors between meetings of the Board of Directors.

- v. There shall be a right of appeal by the members if the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee enforces rules or take action which contravenes the objects of this Charter or The Byelaws.

#### **ARTICLE 7 – MEETINGS**

- i. The Byelaws shall describe the various types of meeting that may be held by The Association and shall specify the purpose, frequency and procedures of each type of meeting.
- ii. The rights (if any) of a member to attend at any class of meeting, of The Association, shall be such as are prescribed by the Byelaws in respect of his class of membership.
- iii. Any resolution of a meeting of the members shall have the effect (if any) as is prescribed by the Byelaws.

#### **ARTICLE 8 – VOTING**

- i. Voting members are defined under the byelaws of this charter.
- ii. Members entitled to vote at a meeting shall have one vote upon each question which is put to the meeting. There may be provision made in the Byelaws for alternative forms of voting for members otherwise unable to attend a meeting. Where such provision has been made, votes received in advance of a meeting shall be included in the quorum for the particular motion voted upon.
- iii. All voting matters shall be carried out under the guidelines and regulations defined under Roberts Rules of Order and as defined under the byelaws of this charter.

#### **ARTICLE 9 – STANDING COMMITTEES**

- i. The Association may form standing committees to promote the objects of The Association.
- ii. The Association shall have an Ethics & Discipline Committee to develop and promote a Code of Ethics and a Disciplinary Process to handle any formal or informal disciplinary issues that arise.
- iii. The Disciplinary Process shall be documented and shall prescribe, as much as possible, the appropriate disciplinary actions associated with each type of misconduct and various degrees of severity for each type of misconduct. The types of misconduct shall include Unfair, Disrespectful, Dangerous, Abusive, Dishonest and Insubordinate behaviour.
- iv. The disciplinary action shall be based on the following guide:

- a) Disciplinary actions shall be considered as constructive procedures for the purpose of correcting inappropriate behaviour. Therefore, in most instances, disciplinary actions should consist of the least severe action to accomplish this purpose.
- b) The aims of a disciplinary action shall be:
  - (i) to educate the member(s) to understand the proper principles that are being violated by the misdemeanour and encourage them to follow these principles
  - (ii) to induce behaviour which is conducive to following the proper principles that were being contravened.
  - (iii) to protect against the likelihood of the violation being repeated
  - (iv) to encourage appropriate behaviour and inhibit misconduct.
- c) In severe cases a member may be indefinitely suspended from membership but not expelled, in which case the suspension can run indefinitely and the suspended member may petition for reinstatement according to strict criteria set by the Disciplinary Committee.
- v. There shall be a right of appeal if there is evidence that the disciplinary process has been conducted incorrectly or unfairly.

#### **ARTICLE 10 – FINANCE**

- i. The Association may set dues and raise funds necessary to promote the objects of The Association, but shall not carry on any trade or business or engage in any transaction with a view to the financial gain or profit of the members.
- ii. The finances of The Association shall be transparent and statements of accounts shall be openly available, on request, to all members.

#### **ARTICLE 11 – THE BYELAWS**

- i. Byelaws may be revoked, amended or added, in General Meeting held with due notice and otherwise in accordance with The Byelaws, to promote the objectives of The Association, provided that no such Bylaw revocation, amendment or addition, shall contravene this charter.
- ii. In any case of conflict, then provisions of this Charter shall prevail over those of the Byelaws.

#### **ARTICLE 12 – AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER**

- i. Amendments may not be made to the Preamble, Article 1, Article 2, Article 3(a) to (f) and Article 13. Amendments to all other articles of the Charter may be made by a vote of two

thirds majority of the voting members at a general assembly of The Association. Due notice of the resolution shall be given by the Executive Committee in writing, who shall give at least twenty eight days' notice of the general meeting to consider the resolution.

#### **ARTICLE 13 – DISSOLUTION**

- i. The Association may be dissolved by a resolution supported by two thirds of the voting members of The Association at a general assembly of the Association called for the purpose, due notice of the resolution shall be given by the Board of Directors in writing, who shall give at least twenty eight days' notice of the general meeting to consider the resolution.
- ii. If the Association is dissolved, any assets of The Association whatsoever which remains after the settling of all debts and liabilities, shall be transferred to a charitable organisation appointed by resolution of the meeting which resolves that The Association be dissolved.

#### **ARTICLE 14 – SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF RIGHTS**

- i. The Charter and Byelaws shall govern those actions and activities for all matters pertaining to The Association. The following scope and limitation of rights shall be understood by all committee and Board of Directors members:
- ii. Limitation of Rights
  - a) The Charter & Byelaws does not seek to directly govern the actions or activities of any member with respect of their personal Taekwon-Do activities nor does it govern or seek to govern the activities of its members. Both the Charter and Byelaws are shown as a set of guideline principles, based on the principles described in the Preamble of this Charter, which must be adhered to should any person wish to remain a valid member of the association.
- iii. Scope of Rights
  - a) This Charter and Bylaws shall seek to offer guidance on the best and recommended practices with respect of their activities as a member of The Association.

## **APPENDIX 1**

**ITF Constitution** – The ITF Constitution as approved at the 14<sup>th</sup> International Taekwon-Do Federation General Assembly in Warsaw, Poland, on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

## **APPENDIX 2**

**ITF Byelaws** – The ITF Byelaws Enacted: October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2003. Amended: January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.  
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## **APPENDIX 3**

**ITF Head Office Address** – Head office 2011: Calle Mercado 5, Benidorm, Spain

**AETF Head Office Address** - Milenijna 5/B Street, 20-884 Lublin, Poland

**Taekwon-Do Encyclopaedia** - Author General Choi Hong Hi. Publisher: International Taekwon-Do Federation; Fifth Edition (1999)

## **APPENDIX 4**

**The ITF England Byelaws** – Amended 18<sup>th</sup> November 2012