



**The relationship, powers and duties of WCF Council, WCF Management Committee,
The WCF Presidency and WCF Secretariat.**

At the WCF Council Meeting held in May 2009 a discussion took place regarding the relationship, powers and duties of the constituent parts of the World Croquet Federation (WCF).

In particular, the practices that have developed since the inception of WCF do not to some observers, follow the requirements of the WCF Statutes, or, alternatively the WCF Statutes are deficient in adequately describing that relationship and division of various powers granted by the WCF Membership.

The WCF Management Committee (WCFMC) were asked to consider these matters further and make recommendations to the WCF Membership for comment and possible future adoption of changes to the WCF Statutes.

This report and consultation outlines the conclusions reached by the WCFMC together with recommendations for changes to WCF Statutes.

Current Relevant Statutes

(104.1) The Federation shall be managed by delegates of the Association assembled in General Meetings hereinafter referred to as "the Council".

(105.7) The Committee shall settle all urgent questions subject to confirmation at the next General Meeting and shall have general administrative powers to carry on the work of the Federation and to govern its financial affairs between General Meetings.

(105.14) In the event that the provisions of WCF Rules conflict with the provisions of any Regulations made under them, the provisions of the WCF Rules shall prevail.

925. Matters of routine shall be dealt with by the Secretary-General who shall advise the President of the same.

926. The Secretary-General shall refer to the President all matters which in his opinion cannot properly be dealt with by him.

927. The President shall consult his colleagues by letter or by email whenever he thinks it necessary.

Commentary of existing Statutes

It seems that the above WCF Statutes are deliberately written to take account of the continuing development of the organisation as a World Co-ordinating body for croquet. Allowing flexibility and freedom to make, hopefully, reasonable decisions within the confines of time, convenience and cost for the benefit of the organisation and its membership and in accordance with its aims and objectives.

However they are sufficiently vague to mean all things to all men with consequent ongoing conjecture and discussion about what can or cannot be done by the various bodies that make up the WCF leading to possible rancour and antipathy amongst the membership.

The WCFMC considered carefully the relationship between the WCF Council and WCFMC in particular. In addition, it also considered the basic work undertaken by the Secretariat and its relevance to the existing Statutes.

In doing so it established the following guiding principles.

Guiding Principles

The WCFMC consider that to establish a reason for change in WCF Statutes, the following principles should be recognised:

- Recognise that the WCF is (constitutionally) run by its members, through the WCF Council, in accordance with Statute 104.1. As such the WCF Council should set/approve policy and budgets, ideally on an annual basis.
- Recognise that the WCF is in practice run by the WCFMC by implementing policy, i.e. making things happen. This will also include playing a significant role in setting policy and budgets for approval by the membership.
- Recognise that while implementing agreed policy the WCFMC needs to be able to act between Council meetings with a certain "freedom of movement", i.e. without having to refer back to the membership for prior approval. The WCFMC will always be accountable to the membership for its actions.
- Recognise that equally sub-committees, or even individual members, of the WCFMC (elected, ex-officio, and co-opted) have key roles to play and need to act with a certain "freedom of movement", i.e. without constantly having to refer back to the WCFMC as a whole for prior approval. Likewise those sub-committees and individual members are accountable for their actions to the WCFMC as a whole.

Commentary of the Guiding Principles

The WCF is a member's organisation, run by its member associations, for its member associations.

The supreme decision making body is and would remain, the WCF Council of Full voting member associations. For practical purposes much of the WCF responsibilities and work is delegated to the WCFMC. It is considered by WCFMC that the WCF Council and WCFMC should operate within the confines of a defined set of terms of reference. This would lead to greater clarity of the division of responsibilities and powers, delegated or otherwise.

The following are a list of suggested changes to the WCF Statutes to underline and endorse the guiding principles:

DRAFT Amendment Proposals

(102.6) The structure of the World Croquet Federation (WCF) shall be the following:

- The President;
- The WCF Council (“the Council”);
- The WCF Management Committee;
- any other permanent or temporary committee or sub-committee which the WCF Council or WCF Management Committee might decide to set up;
- A Secretariat.

The Chairman and Members of the specialised Committees will be elected by the WCF Council or appointed by the WCF Management Committee.

The WCF shall be directed by the WCF Management Committee, under the conditions laid down in 104.1 and 105.7 below, under the control of the WCF Council, and be administered by the President, assisted by the Secretary General.

(104.1) The WCF Council is the supreme decision-making body of the WCF. It is chaired by the President and is composed of representatives of the FULL member organisations of the WCF. The General Assembly shall have sovereign rights. Its main terms of reference shall be the following:

- (104.1.1) To determine the location of the WCF Headquarters.
- (104.1.2) To set and approve future policy.
- (104.1.3) To approve the amendments to the WCF Statutes
- (104.1.4) To make any amendments to any WCF Regulations made by the WCF Management Committee.
- (104.1.5) To approve the annual progress reports of the WCF
- (104.1.6) To confirm the minutes of the last meeting.
- (104.1.7) To approve the accounts of the previous financial year and the budget for the following year.
- (104.1.8) To appoint an auditor.
- (104.1.9) To consider applications for membership.
- (104.1.10) To consider revisions of Association status.
- (104.1.11) To approve the International Sporting Calendar, on proposal of the WCF Management Committee.
- (104.1.12) To consider resolutions for which due notice has been given.
- (104.1.13) To consider confirmation, revision or removal of any penalties imposed by Rule 206 or 207.
- (104.1.14) To elect for 4 years:
 - The President;
 - The Members of the WCF Management Committee.
- (104.1.15) To appoint or dismiss a Treasurer.

- 105.7 The terms of reference for the WCF Management Committee shall be the following:
- 105.7.1 To oversee the enforcement of the WCF Statutes and Regulations.
- 105.7.2 To settle any question which the WCF Council, a WCF Member Association or an affiliated or previously affiliated player to a WCF Member Association has forwarded to be dealt with.
- 105.7.3 To settle any question which cannot await the WCF Council of the WCF to be dealt with subject to the rights of the Council expressed in these Statutes.
- 105.7.4 To take the decisions required by the direction of the WCF Council, which are not reserved to or by the WCF Council.
- 105.7.5 To implement policy and actions in pursuit of the agreed aims between WCF Council Meetings particularly with regard to the development of croquet world wide.
- 105.7.6 To present to the WCF Council, each year, its policy proposals, plans for the following year and a budget for that year.
- 105.7.7 To manage the funds provided for in the budget for the operation of the WCF.
- 105.7.8 To distribute to the relevant Committees or sub-committees, the tasks they are to execute, to take decisions concerning the reports of these Committees, and forward them to the Members of the WCF.
- 105.7.9 To present to the WCF Council its recommendations for the admission and the striking off the rolls or expelling of WCF Members, as well as for any sanctions which might be imposed.
- 105.7.10 To study the WCF Statutes with a view to identifying any possible modification to be proposed to the WCF Council.
- 105.7.11 Subject to 104.1.4 above, to approve all WCF Regulations.
- 105.7.12 Subject to 104.1.11 above, to approve the holding, venues and dates of WCF Championships and to recognise their results.
- 105.7.13 To ensure that all records submitted under its jurisdiction be recognized as rapidly as possible.
- 105.7.14 To make regular reports to the WCF Council on the activities of the WCF.
- 105.7.15 Should the WCF Management Committee consider that the sporting interests of the WCF are not adequately defended in a particular country or a specific territory, the Committee may, after consulting the organization affiliated to the WCF if any, take such steps as are in the opinion of the Committee necessary and desirable to give effective representation to that country or territory in the various bodies of the WCF.
- 105.7.16 To appoint or dismiss a Secretary-General.
- 925 All of the WCF institutions are supported by the WCF secretariat, the responsibility of which is held by the Secretary General.
- 926 The Secretary General shall perform duties under the supervision of the President of the WCF, shall participate in the implementation of the WCF general policies led by the President and framed by the WCF Management Committee, collaborate closely with the various WCF Committees and sub-committees, fulfil all administrative tasks of the WCF and maintain contact with affiliated Member Associations and other organisations with which the WCF collaborates.
- 927 DELETED

Consultation

WCFMC now wishes to obtain the views of the WCF Membership to determine if the draft proposed changes:

1. are sufficient to identify the division of overall and day to day powers and labour;
2. enable the constituent parts of WCF to function in an orderly fashion.

Member Associations are asked to consider this report and feed-back their views no later than 31.12.09. This will enable WCFMC to consider the next step to implementing any changes.