WORLD ASSOCIATION OF CHEFS SOCIETIES
(WORLDCHEFS)

STANDING RULES

Voted and Accepted during the 2022 General Meeting in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.
WORLD ASSOCIATION OF CHEFS’ SOCIETIES  
(WORLDCHEFS)  

STANDING RULES

Reference to Statutes Article 32 for the governance of this document. 
If not specifically mentioned, abide by Roberts Rules of Order ©. 
Some issues not covered may require further definition.

1.0. Fundamentals

1.1. World Association of Chefs Societies


1.1.3. The official recognised brand name and acronym in all languages is “Worldchefs”.

1.1.4. It is the duty of the Board of Directors, members, employees, and consultants to ensure the constitution of the Association is strictly upheld and procedures are in place, monitored and adhered to.

1.2. Worldchefs Official Languages

1.2.1. The four (4) official languages of Worldchefs are:

   i) English  
   ii) French  
   iii) German  
   iv) Spanish

1.2.2. The working business language is English for all transactions with Worldchefs.
1.3. **Worldchefs Mission Statement**

1.3.1. Mission Statement: Worldchefs is a non-political, professional organization, dedicated to maintaining and improving the culinary standards of global cuisines. We accomplish these goals through education, training, and professional development of our international membership. As an authority and opinion leader on food, Worldchefs represents a global voice on all issues related to the culinary profession.

1.4. **Worldchefs Logo**

1.4.1. All paid up National Society, Affiliate Society, Corporate or Associate Members may make use of the logos as per the Brand Guidelines.

1.4.2. No other entities are allowed to use the Worldchefs logo, for any purpose, including but not limited to, personal gain, commercial purposes in relation to sales, advertising, or promotion of goods, associations, events, competitions, or services unless pre-approved by the Board of Directors.

1.4.3. National Society, Affiliate Society, Corporate or Associate Members which have been removed from the membership lists lose the right to use the Worldchefs logo in any form whatsoever, with immediate effect, unless otherwise pre-approved by the Board of Directors.

1.4.4. No deviations from the prescribed conditions of the use of the logo, in any media formats will be entered into by any members.

1.4.5. Any entity using the Worldchefs logo (or adaptations) without the explicit written authorization by Worldchefs will be deemed to be using “pirate marketing” techniques and Worldchefs reserves the right to take appropriate legal action.

1.5. **Head Office**

1.5.1. The Worldchefs Head Office is responsible for maintaining:

- All archives and documents including the list of the Board of Directors, National Society Members, Affiliate Society Members, Associate Members, Corporate Members and Honorary Life Members;
- Sponsorship and partnership contracts;
- Chronological archive information;
- Current list of accredited Judges;
- Marketing and communication activities while enhancing the professional image of chefs worldwide;
- Proper use of the Worldchefs name and logo;
- Provide Brand Guidelines to the membership as directed by the Board of Directors;
- Provide Competition Guidelines to the membership and assist in the processing of applications;
- Other duties as assigned by the President.

1.5.2. It is also the functional office for Worldchefs Ltd., which is the business entity and a subsidiary of Worldchefs.
1.5.3. All monies will be referred to Worldchefs Ltd., apart from the revenues collected from Worldchefs membership fees and activities.

2.0. Finances

2.1. Managing Director Responsibilities

2.1.1. The Managing Director, in conjunction with the Executive Committee, will be responsible for all financial aspects including but not limited to maintaining the budget, daily accounts, balance sheets, profit and loss statements and the investment portfolio.

2.1.2. The Managing Director shall also maintain lists of all members including: National Society; Affiliate Society; Honorary Life; Associate and Corporate.

2.1.3. The Managing Director will prepare and present to the Board of Directors, quarterly and annual financial statements and coordinate the financial audit to be performed every year with the appointed legal registered accountancy firm.

2.1.4. Other duties as assigned by the President.

2.1.5. The Annual Finance Review Team for the yearly audit will consist of the Assistant Vice President of Finance, Managing Director, and the appointed accountancy firm.

2.2. Expenditures

2.2.1. The following are payable from the financial resources of Worldchefs and/or Worldchefs Ltd. and are subject to approval by the Executive Committee:

   i) Worldchefs general administrative costs and expenditures.
   ii) Travel and subsistence costs of the Board of Directors and selected Committees to attend official Worldchefs meetings and/or Congress.
   iii) Worldchefs approved programs.
   iv) Worldchefs Head Office salaries and consulting fees pre-approved by the President and ratified by the Board of Directors.

2.3. Authority to Sign

2.3.1. Worldchefs and Worldchefs Ltd. are duly represented and committed by the joint signatures of the Managing Director, President, or Vice-President, with that of the Secretary General.

2.3.2. Use may be made of the assets of Worldchefs and Worldchefs Ltd. as follows:

   i) For amounts up to Euros 5000, by the single signature of the Managing Director and approval by the President.
   ii) For amounts of more than Euros 5000, by the joint signatures of either the President and/or Vice-President with that of the Secretary General.

2.3.3. Any changes to these increments must be approved by majority of the eligible voters at a General Meeting.
2.4. **Auditors**

2.4.1. The Worldchefs and Worldchefs Ltd. annual financial accounts are to be audited using the services of a Licensed Chartered Accountant (firm) of recognition and approved by the Board of Directors.

2.4.2. Audited financial statements and supporting documents of Worldchefs and Worldchefs Ltd. shall be distributed to the Presidents of National Society Members six (6) weeks prior to the General Meeting to allow sufficient time for review.

3.0. **Official Bodies**

3.1. **Worldchefs - National Membership**

3.1.1. The Ordinary General Meeting convenes every two (2) years at the bi-annual Congress of the Association, and/or whenever it is called by the Board of Directors or at the request of a quarter (1/4) of the Association’s National Society Members in a format approved by the Board of Directors, which may include, when deemed necessary due to unusual circumstances, by video conferencing and electronic voting. Statutes Article 29

3.1.2. The Congress is convened by the Board of Directors by giving twelve (12) weeks advance notice with an announcement of the agenda in English, the official Business language of Worldchefs. Fifty-one percent (51%) of the total membership must be presented in order to have a Quorum.

3.1.3. The use of proxy votes will only be permitted on pre-circulated agenda items. The use of proxy votes will not be permitted on items introduced throughout the duration of the applicable business sessions. Only one proxy vote per National Society Member is allowed to be held. Members of the Worldchefs Board of Directors may not hold a proxy vote.

3.1.4. Congress Bid applications, nominations for Continental Directors, and nominations for the Presidium must be submitted to Worldchefs Head Office no later than twenty-six (26) weeks prior to the Congress.

3.1.5. Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person, or groups of people on account of ethnic origin, gender, language, religion, politics, or any other reason is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion.

3.1.6. Each National Society Member can be represented at the Congress with only one (1) vote. If a National Society Member President is absent, the official voting delegate must submit a letter of authorization (proxy) to the Secretary General from their National President before the commencement of the General Meeting, giving them permission to vote on behalf of their country.

3.1.7. Members of National Society Members are encouraged to attend the Congress. Congress costs of all participants will be paid by their respective societies, or by the individuals themselves.

3.1.8. Each National Society Member, which is unable to send its own representative to the Congress, is entitled to be represented by one other National Society Member. This fact must be communicated to the Secretary General before the commencement of the General Meeting. Each National Society Member may carry only one (1) additional vote (proxy) other than its own.
3.1.9. Voting by secret ballot may be requested by the Board of Directors or at least five (5) National Society Members, which have voting rights. A breakdown in percentage (%) terms must be given, after a secret vote, to make sure that the process is transparent and managed correctly with the votes cast.

3.1.10. The Board of Directors of the National Society Members do not all have to be chefs, however, it must consist of at least eighty per cent (80%) chefs and twenty per cent (20%) non-chefs.

3.1.11. The Worldchefs Executive Committee may, at its discretion, communicate to the Worldchefs voting members, through electronic mail, any changes to the Standing Rules that are going to have a direct benefit to the organization. Voting on their behalf will take place through the respective Continental Directors and be ratified at the next General Meeting.

3.1.12. Amendments to the Statutes and Standing Rules (ByLaws) must be communicated to the National Society Members, twelve (12) weeks before the Congress and require a majority by a two-thirds (2/3) of eligible votes either present by proxy or participants’ proxy holders who are entitled to vote.

3.1.13. The General Assembly, within the framework of the Congress, is the supreme body of Worldchefs and its decisions made during the General Meeting are final. All the legitimate parties belonging to Worldchefs must accept this arbitration ruling in a democratic manner.

3.1.14. The President shall appoint a Sergeant of Arms, who will be responsible for ensuring orderly proceedings during the General Meeting.

3.1.15. The Dr. Bill Gallagher Young Chefs Forum must be included during each Congress.

3.1.16. The Worldchefs Global Chef Competition Series includes:

- Global Chef Challenge
- Global Pastry Challenge
- Young Chefs Challenge (Hans Bueschkens Trophy)

3.2. Evidence of Membership

3.2.1. Worldchefs will issue all National Society Members a Certificate of Membership and date of membership acceptance. This information shall be made available on the Worldchefs website.

3.2.2. It is highly recommended that the individual National Society Members issue their members an identity document proving they are the country’s official Worldchefs member.

3.3. Support

3.3.1. National Society Members, Affiliate Society Members, Associate Members and Corporate Members which have duly paid their membership contributions should give moral support and, wherever possible and budgets permitting, material assistance to other Worldchefs Members.

3.3.2. For members to be considered in good standing (other than their annual membership fee) they are expected to participate in at least one Worldchefs event per year, which may include a Congress, Continental Meeting, competition, festival and/or host a seminar.
3.4. Communication and General Information Exchange

3.4.1. National Society Members are encouraged to mutually exchange their journals and periodicals published by their societies.

3.4.2. If 3.4.1 is not possible, general information may be sent to other National Society Members via Continental Directors or the Worldchefs Head Office.

3.4.3. Information is generally exchanged and listed electronically via the website www.worldchefs.org. Electronic means are also considered an official and legitimate form of communication.

3.5 Membership Benefits by Categories

3.5.1. National Society Membership Benefits

- Participating in Worldchefs Congresses and Continental Meetings;
- Attending and participating Worldchefs Culinary Competitions as the National Team. Additionally, Regional Teams or individuals may also be represented.
- Managing MyCountryPage on Worldchefs website to share news, events and communicate with Members;
- Worldchefs Magazine and monthly electronic newsletters;
- Posting association news on www.worldchefs.org;
- Attending and hosting Worldchefs Competition Seminars;
- Ability to host four (4) levels of competitions recognized by Worldchefs;
- Educational and Certification opportunities including Worldchefs Academy;
- Recognized School Programs;
- Feed the Planet and Sustainability Programs;
- World Chefs Without Borders Chefs Social Responsibility Events;
- Networking between Member Chefs across the globe;
- Cross-cultural training opportunities;
- Participation in Young Chef activities and more.

3.5.2. Affiliate Society Membership Benefits

- Member Name will appear on the official Worldchefs Membership list on www.worldchefs.org
- Receive Worldchefs information
- Ability to participate in Worldchefs Congresses and other Worldchefs Events.

The maximum term of an Affiliate Society Membership is 5 years, during which the National Society Membership should be pursued. After 5 years, if the Affiliate Society Member has not become a National Society Member, the Affiliate Society Membership will cease. They may then apply to become an Associate Member.

3.5.3. Associate Membership Benefits

- Associations interested in becoming members of Worldchefs are eligible for Associate Membership providing they have a recommendation from the official National Society Member of their country or the Continental Director.
• Applications for admission for an Associate Membership must be made to the Board of Directors through the Continental Director, who will, based on the criteria, vote on its acceptance. Associate Members have no voting rights and pay an annual fee to Worldchefs.
• Associate Members will be posted on the official Worldchefs Membership list on www.worldchefs.org
• Other benefits include receiving Worldchefs information and the ability to participate in Worldchefs Congresses and other events including competitions as individual or regional teams participating, or organizing Worldchefs Competition Seminars, ability to host up to and including international endorsed Worldchefs competitions.
• Associate Members may apply for use of the Worldchefs Associate Membership logo in conjunction with Worldchefs Head Office and its relevant National Society Member.

3.5.4. Corporate Membership Benefits

• Corporate Member Certificate and plaque;
• Company logo to be listed as Corporate Member on Worldchefs website www.worldchefs.org in the member section and in Worldchefs Magazine;
• Opportunity to propose one (1) monthly news to Worldchefs website news section;
• Preferential rates for Worldchefs Congress delegate fee;
• Preferential rates on booth space at Worldchefs Congress & Expo; and
• Invitation to participate at Worldchefs Village organised at major culinary shows (additional cost applies).

3.5.5. Corporate Partnerships are also available.

3.6. Worldchefs Board of Directors

3.6.1. In the event of any disputes between and/or with Worldchefs Members, the President will designate member(s) of the Board of Directors to act as an intermediary if the parties wish to be mediated, or if it is deemed to be in the best interest of Worldchefs.

3.6.2. The Board of Directors is also required to intervene on its own initiative if the interests or unity or functionality of Worldchefs are threatened. Towards this purpose and for fair and equal handling of the issues, supporting documents are requested to be made available by the relevant Member parties (or party). The Board of Directors will issue a statement, which should be considered final, and no further correspondence may be entered into.

3.6.3. If a Continental Director becomes the President of Worldchefs, they should recommend a replacement person to the Board of Directors previously approved by the majority of the eligible votes within the respective Continent. This proposal should be presented for ratification during the next Annual Continental Meeting. The interim replacement will serve for the remaining term of office.

3.6.4. The Board of Directors term of office is four (4) years.

3.6.5. The Continental Director’s term is to a maximum of two (2) terms of four (4) years each. If a Continental Director changes mid-stream as an interim, due to a Continental Director stepping down, their term will start from the next General Meeting vote.
4.0. Standing Committees

4.1. The President, in consultation with the Board of Directors will appoint the Committee Chairs and Committee members for a four (4) year period. In order to provide continuity some members may be reappointed at the discretion of the President after consultation with the Board of Directors. All reasonable expenditures of all Standing Committees must be pre-approved by the President.

If a Committee Chair or member is unable to perform their duties or has been relocated from their area, the Committee member may be requested to vacate the position and a replacement will be appointed. Committee members do not have to be Chefs.

4.2. Committees may be requested to meet at various Worldchefs events. Only in special cases shall the Board of Directors approve travel and/or meeting expenses. The majority of Committee work carried out should be done via electronic means and/or conference calls.

4.3. The Standing Committees may include:

- ByLaws Committee
- Congress Committee
- Culinary Competition Committee
- Education Committee
- Feed the Planet and Sustainability Committee
- Finance Committee
- Global Development of Young Chefs Committee
- Historical Committee
- Honorary Life Membership Committee
- International Chefs Day Committee
- Worldchefs Academy
- World Chefs Without Borders Committee
- World Cultural Culinary Heritage Committee
- Military

4.4. The ByLaws Committee

4.4.1. The ByLaws Committee maintains the Worldchefs Statutes and Standing Rules (collectively, the ByLaws) and solicits input from the membership. It will review, modify, prioritize and/or recommend any suggestions to the Board of Directors.

4.4.2. Proposed Statute amendments endorsed and/or proposed by the Board of Directors will be emailed to the National Society Members and brought for discussion and voted on at the next General Meeting.

4.4.3. The ByLaws Committee consists of a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) Committee members.

4.4.4. Standing Rules may be recommended to the Board of Directors by the ByLaws Committee, ratified at the General Meeting, and governed by the Board of Directors in compliance with Article 32 of the Statutes.
4.5. The Congress Committee

4.5.1. The Congress Chair, in conjunction with the Managing Director and President will verify compliance to the pre-determined criteria; receive and screen all National Society Member Congress Bids and recommend a short-list with a limited number of Congress Bid candidates to the Board of Directors for a vote. The short-list will include a maximum of 5 Congress Bids to be presented for the next Congress. The successful Congress Bid will be determined by majority vote of the eligible voting National Society Members.

4.5.2. Responsibilities include occasional travel to a specific Bid or Host site, approval of Congress venues and related costs and other aspects related to the Congress.

4.5.3. The Congress Committee has the right to change a Congress venue upon approval of the Board of Directors. This decision may be based on cost, government, and environmental change and/or anything which may expose Worldchefs to financial implications and/or negatively affect Worldchefs or the overall well-being of its members.

4.6. The Education Committee

4.6.1. The Education Committee will work in conjunction with the Worldchefs Office Education Department for the development and review of Worldchefs educational activities that have been pre-approved by the Board of Directors.

4.6.2. The Education Committee advises the Board of Directors on matters concerning education and may recommend new initiatives to the Board of Directors.

4.6.3. The Education Committee promotes and supports Worldchefs Education programs by raising awareness in their respective countries and regions.

4.7. World Chefs Without Borders (WCWB) Committee

4.7.1. The World Chefs Without Borders (WCWB) Committee will establish qualifications and criteria for approval of Disaster Relief Aid candidates.

4.7.2. WCWB Committee will include one (1) Member of the Board of Directors to assist as ongoing liaison with the Board of Directors.

4.7.3. All WCWB Committee expenses, disbursements or donations to Worldchefs Member and Non-Member countries for Disaster Relief Aid shall be approved by majority vote of the WCWB Committee Members and submitted to the President for final approval.

4.8. Culinary Competition Committee (“CCC”)

4.8.1. The President appoints the Culinary Competition Committee Chair and Members, which serve at the discretion of the Board of Directors. The Culinary Competition Committee will include a representative of each of the major Worldchefs endorsed international culinary competitions, a representative of the military and a pastry chef.
4.8.2. The Culinary Competition Committee is instructed to prepare and maintain guidelines and rules on Worldchefs endorsed competitions, and to encourage the further development of such events. It also supervises the correct conduct of such competitions and the qualification criteria of the judges accredited by Worldchefs.

4.8.3. Culinary Competition Guidelines as recommended by the Culinary Competition Committee are to be set for a period of 2 years. Any revisions must be pre-approved by the Board of Directors before becoming effective.

4.8.4. The Culinary Competition Committee is responsible for maintaining the list of current competition judges that have been approved by the Culinary Competition Committee and/or the Board of Directors.

4.8.5. The Culinary Competition Committee will oversee the standardisation of judging through Competition Seminars.

4.8.6. The Culinary Competition Committee reviews requests for Worldchefs endorsed competitions.

4.8.7. As with all Committees, appointment to the Culinary Competition Committee is for a term of four (4) years, which may be reviewed and extended by the President in consultation with the Board of Directors. Statutes Article 27.

4.8.8. All actions of the Culinary Competition Committee must be approved by the President and Board of Directors.

5.0. Worldchefs Endorsed Culinary Competitions and Exhibitions

5.1.1. The Culinary Competition Committee endorsement requires a minimum notice of:

- Twelve (12) months for Global and International Competitions
- Six (6) months for Continental and National Competitions

5.1.2. This notice is required in order to correctly and effectively organize a Worldchefs Competition or Exhibition to achieve the correct standards, which are expected of a Worldchefs endorsed event as listed on the Worldchefs website.

5.1.3. The organizing party must be either a Worldchefs Member having paid its annual membership contribution or an event company. Organizing parties of all Worldchefs Endorsed Culinary Competitions and Exhibitions must be pre-approved by the Continental Director and/or Board of Directors.

Worldchefs approved judges must be used at Worldchefs Endorsed Competitions as per the Culinary Competition Guidelines. Invitational or Sponsor judges may be used as per the Culinary Competition Guidelines.

5.1.4. National Society Members, which are in arrears with their payments, will not be granted approval for the organization of a Worldchefs Endorsed Competition or Exhibition and therefore, will also have no entitlement to send a National Team to a Worldchefs Endorsed Competition or Exhibition as per the Culinary Competition Guidelines.

5.1.5. If Worldchefs endorsement is granted to a Culinary Competition or Exhibition, a fee will be payable to the Worldchefs Head Office. See current Culinary Competition Guidelines for rules and fee structure available on www.worldchefs.org
5.1.6. After official Worldchefs endorsement has been given to the Culinary Competition or Exhibition, the organizers are entitled to promote the event in a professional way that mutually enhances their event and Worldchefs, in alignment with Worldchefs Brand Guidelines available at the Worldchefs Head Office.

5.1.7. The organizers must ensure that all guidelines and regulations for the Worldchefs Endorsed Culinary Competitions or Exhibitions are respected.

5.1.8. A current Worldchefs Culinary Competition Committee member will be appointed to advise, provide guidance to, and observe the Worldchefs Endorsed Culinary Competition or Exhibition to ensure the workings of the event meet with the official criteria of the Worldchefs Culinary Competition Guidelines as set out by the Culinary Competition Committee. The costs of which will be borne by the organizing party. For further details visit: https://worldchefs.org/ culinaryrules/

5.1.9. The appointed advisor may not be a participating Worldchefs Judge for the same particular event.

5.1.10. If there is no current National Society Member in any given country, then an Affiliate Society Member or Associate Member in good standing may represent the country in an international competition including IKA, Culinary World Cup and/or the Global Chef Challenge Series. The Affiliate Society Member will have first right of refusal.

5.1.11. If a National Society Member or Affiliate Society Member does exist in a country and decides not to participate in an international competition, an Associate Member in the same country may represent the country in the international competition. If there is more than one Associate member in a country, the Board of Directors will determine which Associate Member will be eligible to compete.

5.1.12. The National Society Member, Affiliate Society Member or Associate Member must be in good standing including current annual dues in the year of the international competition (IKA, Culinary World Cup, Global Chef Challenge Semi-Finals and/or Finals.) In addition, the respective competitor(s) must also be current with their individual membership dues in their respective country association.

6.0 Honors

6.1. Worldchefs Honorary Life President

6.1.1. As a special honor and at the recommendation of the Board of Directors, the General Assembly may grant the title of Worldchefs Honorary Life President. Statutes Article 23.

6.1.2. There may not be more than one WORLDCHEFS Honorary Life President at any particular time. Statutes Article 23.

6.2. Worldchefs Honorary Life Members – New Applications

6.2.1. The application process is made available to all countries, either by the Worldchefs website or by sending an email to the President of each paid up National Society Member. The application will be made available at least nine (9) months before a Congress.

6.2.2. All applicants must read and understand both the nomination process and election criteria to ensure that the application is valid.
6.2.3. If any nomination is received without following this procedure and providing the strict request or all information, then the application will not be considered.

6.2.4. All applications must be submitted with all details as outlined in the nomination and criteria sections to the designated email address honorarymembers@worldchefs.org no less than six (6) months before the Congress date.

6.2.5. Unsuccessful applications are not automatically carried over to the next Congress. They must re-apply and submit all relevant documentation at the required time for the next Congress.

6.2.6. Current members of the Board of Directors should not be eligible for Honorary Life Membership whilst in office.

6.2.7. Honorary Life Members will receive a Worldchefs certificate, special pin and the Worldchefs medal with ribbon on their appointment.

6.2.8. The number of living Honorary Life Members may not exceed the number of paid up current National Society Members + ten per cent (10%) of the total as of six (6) months before a Congress.

6.2.9. All applications are to be sent to the Honorary Life Membership Committee for review and will be submitted to the Board of Directors for consideration and/or approval prior to the Congress. All decisions by the Board of Directors are final and no correspondence will be entered into, either verbally or in writing thereafter.

6.3. **Worldchefs Lifetime Honorary Judge**

6.3.1 To be eligible for the designation of Lifetime Honorary Judge, nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Senior chefs with outstanding achievements during their judging career;
- Judge with record of global series and/or international jury duties;
- Significant contribution to Worldchefs in jury positions and/or other appointments.

6.3.2 Procedure for nominations and appointments:

- Culinary Competition Committee will nominate, and Board of Directors will vote on approval of the Lifetime Honorary Judge recommendations.
- There will be a maximum of two (2) nominations every two (2) years;
- Appointments will be made by official letter from the Worldchefs President and Culinary Competition Committee Chair;
- Lifetime Honorary Judges will be posted on the Worldchefs website with CV.

6.4. **Worldchefs Honorary Judge**

6.4.1. To be eligible for the designation of Honorary Judge for a period of five (5) years, nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Senior chef with outstanding achievements during their regional judging career;
- Significant contributor to Worldchefs in jury positions and/or other appointments.
6.4.2. Procedure for nominations and appointments:

- The Worldchefs President will nominate, and the Board of Directors will vote on approval of the Honorary Judge for a period of five (5) years;
- Appointments will be made by official letter from the Worldchefs President.

7.0. Final Provisions

See Statutes Article 31 for "Dissolution"