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**STATUTES**

**2015**

**Statutes of the**

**Asociación Internacional de Hidatidología/Word Association of Echinococcosis**

**CHAPTER I**

**DEFINITION AND OBJECTIVES**

Art. 1) The Word Association of Echinococcosis (WAE), founded on September 21st, 1941, at Colonia (Uruguay) by delegates from Uruguay, Argentina and Brazil, is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) pledged in the study and divulgation of all aspects related to Echinococcosis (cystic, alveolar and tropical), so as to fight against this disease on a world-wide scale by all scientific and legal means.

Art. 2) The WAE objectives are.

a) To co-operate with international organisations, such as World Health Organization (WHO), Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), Food and Agricultural (FAO), Office International Epizootiés (OIE) and working groups on Echinococcosis.

b) To co-operate with the governmental and non-governmental authorities in every programme related with the sanitary legislation, education, culture, scientific investigation and technical improvement in the area of Echinococcosis.

c) To promote the international exchange of knowledge and ideas in the field of Echinococcosis organising a World Congress, and promoting other kind of local, national or regional scientific meetings.

**CHAPTER II**

**SEAT AND AFFILIATES**

Art. 3) The official seat of the WAE is in the Republic of Argentina where is seated the General Secretariat.

Art. 4) 1. In the interested countries National Associations of Hydatidology may be incorporated and may become official affiliates of the WAE (the Affiliates).

2. The Affiliates will have their representative Organs of which will inform the Directive Council of the WAE, and have the following obligations:

a) To make the WAE and its objectives known before the public and private entities of the respective country;

b) To prosecute technical and scientific meetings in the respective country, and to take over the responsibility to organise the World Congress of the WAE.

c) To contribute financially to the WAE with an annual fee, whose amount shall settled according the number of its members.

**CHAPTER III**

**MEMBERSHIP**

Art. 5) 1. The WAE is composed of Founding, Full and Adherent members. Additional categories are Honorary and Benefactor members.

2. All applications for membership of WAE shall be submitted to the Directive Council, which has to present them to the General Assembly for voting.

3. All members have to accept the dispositions of the Statutes and the decisions of the General Assembly or other WAE organs, and shall contribute to the reputation of WAE.

4. All members have the right to participate in the Assemblies, to accede to WAE website and to receive the WAE publications.

Art. 6) Founding members are the delegates who contributed to the foundation of the WAE and they are, by right, Honorary members.

Art. 7) 1. Full members are the members of the Affiliates and shall be proposed to the General Assembly by the Affiliates.

2. The Full members have the right to vote in the General Assembly, to vote in the elections for WAE organs, and to be elected to the WAE Organs.

Art. 8) 1. Adherent members are professionals of the disciplines related to Echinococcosis, from the countries which do not have an Affiliate of the WAE.

2. Applications for Adherent members have to be submitted on an application form, which has to be signed by the applicant, and shall be supported by two members of WAE.

3. The Adherent members have to pay an annual membership fee according to the decision of the General Assembly

4. The Adherent members have the right to vote in the General Assembly, to vote in the elections and to be elected to the WAE organs, provided that they have been members of WAE for at least one year and observe their Treasury obligations.

Art. 9) 1. The category of honorary member can be awarded to scientists and other professionals, members or non-members of WAE, who have made outstanding scientific or other contributions to progress in the field of Echinococcosis.

2. The title of honorary member can be proposed by any Full or Adherent member, according to special guidelines established by the Directive Council and shall be approved by the General Assembly.

Art. 10) 1. Benefactor members are individuals or groups of individuals (such as Foundations or Corporations) who have contributed with significant financial donations to WAE.

2. This title may also be attributed to the members of WAE who contribute with annual fees, at least, ten times higher than the rates established for Adherent members.

Art. 11) The membership in WAE expires:

1. Through resignation.
2. If it does not comply the obligations with the WAE, namely if the annual membership fees have not been paid for three consecutive years. These members may be re-admitted without a new application procedure after having settled their financial obligations.
3. By exclusion based on a decision of the Directive Council. Such members have the right to appeal from the exclusion decision to the General Assembly.

**CHAPTER IV**

**WAE ORGANS**

Art. 12) The WAE Organs are:

1. The General Assembly (GA)
2. The Directive Council (DC)
3. The Audit Board (AB)

Art. 13) 1. The General Assembly is the sovereign organ of WAE and is composed of all its members.

2. The GA shall ordinarily meet during the World Congresses, summoned by the President of the Directive Council. Extraordinary GA may be summoned by the DC, AB, or by the Council of Representatives.

3. If there is no quorum at the time scheduled for the meeting, the GA shall assemble 30 minutes later, regardless of the number of members present or represented.

4. The GA is chaired by the Executive Board of the DC accompanied by Vice President of the Region in which it develops, they shall distribute a draft agenda to all members of WAE, at least, two months in advance.

5. The General Secretary shall elaborate the minutes of the GA containing all relevant decisions and information.

Art. 14) The competencies of the GA are:

1. To appoint the members of the DC and the AB;
2. To approve the admission and exclusion of members;
3. To discuss and vote the report of the DC and the accounts approved by the AB;
4. To approve the annual fees for Full, Adherent and Benefactor members;
5. To discuss and to approve the modification of the Statutes;
6. To approve the Minutes of the Assembly;
7. To evaluate and approve guidelines for the organisation of the International Congress;
8. To discuss the candidatures and to approve the seat of the International Congresses;
9. To resolve on official co-operation with other organisations, associations or institutions;
10. To solve any matter of relevance for WAE;
11. The WAE dissolution.

Art. 15) 1. The Directive Council is composed by one President, four Vice-Presidents, one General Secretary, five Adjunct-Secretaries, one Treasurer and six Council Members.

2. The President, the General Secretary and the Treasurer constitute the Executive Board that administers the WAE.

3. The four Vice-Presidents shall be from each Continent, but not from the President’s Continent of origin, and shall be residents of the respective Continent.

4. The Adjunct-Secretaries shall be from each Continent and shall be residents of the respective Continent, where they shall to co-operate with the President and the respective Vice-President.

Art. 16) The competencies of the Executive Board are:

* 1. To manage the WAE;
	2. To elaborate annual activity and financial reports to be presented to the GA;
	3. To promote the publications of the WAE;
	4. To propose to the GA the amount of the annual membership fees;
	5. To propose the title of Honorary member and the decorations;
	6. To decide the value of the Prizes and Scholarships to be attributed at the Congresses;
	7. To promote relationship with other governmental and no governmental organisations.

Art. 17) The Vice-Presidents should to represent and to co-ordinate the WAE activities in the Continent for which they have been elected.

Art. 18) The competencies of the President are:

1. To promote and co-ordinate the WAE activities;
2. To represent the WAE at international organisations and in official acts;
3. To summon and chair the DC and the GA meetings.

Art. 1**9**) The competencies of the General-Secretary are:

1. To assure the function of the WAE Secretariat;
2. To promote the execution of the DC decisions;
3. To elaborate the minutes of the GA;
4. To elaborate the up-date elective book and to promote the election acts;
5. To elaborate a list of members and to keep it up to date with postal and e-mail addresses, phone and fax numbers.

Art. 20) The competencies of the Treasurer are:

1. To promote the encasement of the membership fees;
2. To promote activities for raising donations and funds;
3. To settle the accounts of the WAE;
4. To elaborate an annual Financial Report to be presented to the AB.

Art. 21) The Audit Board is composed of one President, one Vice-President and one Secretary, and it is its competence:

1. To audit the WAE accounts and to report any financial problems to the DC and/or GA;
2. To evaluate and approve or not the Financial Report of the Treasurer;
3. To summon extraordinary Assemblies, whenever the Directive Council conduct justifies so.

**CHAPTER V**

**APPOINTMENT OF THE WAE ORGANS**

Art. 22) 1. The candidacies for the DC and AB are established through single lists which will report, for each duty, the name, the professional activity and the country of the candidate member and shall be accompanied by a project of activities for the mandate.

2. The list(s) have to be submitted to the General Secretary of WAE at least six month prior to the next GA and the President shall inform the Executive Board about the candidate lists and its composition.

3. The Executive Board shall identify each candidate list by a letter (A, B, C, etc.) and shall send the list(s) to all members of WAE about three months prior the GA.

4. If the General Secretary President has not received any candidature according to number 2 above, the interested candidates may deliver their candidacies, exceptionally, in the first day of the Congress, according to the terms referred in this article.

Art. 23) 1. The elections will take place in the day of the General Assembly convoked for that purpose.

2. The electoral period shall be established in the agenda of the GA and will be subject to the following rules:

* 1. The voting is personal and secret;
	2. There will be an up-date elective book that will be at WAE members disposal;
	3. The ballots, where the candidate(s) list(s) shall be reported, will be deposited in the ballot box after control of the elective book;
	4. The results of the voting shall be recorded within minutes signed by the members of the Executive Board which will be announced in the GA.

Art. 24) 1. The members of the WAE organs will be appointed for a period of four years and will fulfil their functions “*ad honorem*”.

2. The re-appointment for the same position shall be allowed only once.

**CHAPTER VI**

**ADVISORY ORGANS, PUBLICATIONS AND DECORATIONS**

Art. 25) The Advisory Organs of WAE are:

a) The Honorary Committee

b) The Council of Representatives

Art. 26) The Honorary Committee is composed of all honorary members and the ex-presidents of the WAE, and will have the competencies established by the Executive Board.

Art. 27) The Council of Representatives is composed of the Presidents of each national Association of Hydatidology officially affiliated to WAE and has the competence to submit, to the Executive Board proposals of all matters related to the Affiliates, and to summon an extraordinary General Assembly.

Art. 28) 1. The WAE will promote the publication of a Newsletter and a Scientific Journal in the WAE website, under the supervision of the Executive Board.

2. The Newsletter shall contain all information concerning the WAE, the Affiliates and the Meetings and shall be actualised, at least, once a year.

3. The scientific journal will be called “International Journal of Hydatidology” and shall contain articles of interest of all fields of Echinococcosis, including the lectures of the Congresses, and articles sent by the WAE members.

Art. 29) 1. The WAE will grant decorations to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the WAE or to the field of Echinococcosis, based on proposals of the Executive Board.

2. The WAE decorations are:

a) The “Medal of the International Association of Hydatidology”

b) Certificates of Merit.

c) Plates of Recognition

3. The decision to award a decoration shall be based on strong arguments, shall be rather selective and shall be approved by the General Assembly.

**CHAPTER VII**

**ASSETS, DISSOLUTION AND FINAL DISPOSITIONS**

Art. 30) The WAE has the following assets:

1. The donations;
2. The legates and subventions given to the WAE;
3. Any other contribution.

Art. 31) The WAE dissolution lies in the competence of the General Assembly, but a decision can only be taken if two thirds of the quorum is reached.

Art. 32) All cases not foreseen in these Statutes will be decided by the Executive Board, with the obligation to submit its decisions to the immediate subsequent General Assembly.