



**Martial Arts and Games Committee of South Africa
(MASA)**

**A sporting body not for gain
CONSTITUTION**

1. General

1.1 Name of Body

The name shall be; THE MARTIAL ARTS AND GAMES COMMITTEE OF SOUTH AFRICA, hereinafter referred to as 'MASA', an association being a legal persona constituted herein, separate from its members and entitled to its own property, whether moveable, immovable or otherwise and to sue and be sued in its own name. MASA incorporates all previous similar bodies and any previous constitutions are superseded by this document.

1.2 Ambit

Representative body for all martial arts in South Africa.

1.3 Domicile

3 Boerperd Street – Greenhills - Rendfontein, South Africa.

1.4 Character

MASA shall be a non-political, non profit friendly organization for its related martial arts regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, age, creed or belief.

1.5 Membership

All Federations, Councils, Committees, Authorities Umbrella Groups or similar bodies representing a specific martial art or group of closely related or similar martial arts shall be eligible for membership of MASA subject to the published membership criteria being met.

1.6 Affiliations

MASA shall be the only representative martial arts body in South Africa and will seek affiliation with all other relevant sporting bodies and government departments

1.7 International

MASA will, where relevant, make contact with and affiliate with similar international bodies.

2. Purpose and Activities

2.1 Purpose

MASA shall have as its main aims the unification, control, promotion and development of all martial arts in South Africa; the fostering of mutual trust, friendship and respect amongst its members and the active encouragement of regional, national and international links, workshops, competitions and tours.

2.2 Activities

MASA shall be charged with the following activities and utilize its available funds in order to achieve the purpose set out in 2.1.

- 2.2.1. To collect membership fees and seek donations and grants in order to fulfill its mandate.
- 2.2.2. Actively promote the martial arts through development and promotional programs in order to contribute to the moral and physical wellbeing of all communities in South Africa.
- 2.2.3 Advise and assist in the setting up of federations, umbrella bodies, councils, committees and similar bodies and ensuring their proper registration.
- 2.2.4 To accept, suspend or terminate membership as set out in the membership criteria.
- 2.2.5 To ensure that members are affiliated to bona fide international bodies specific to their activities. To encourage members to establish training clubs, martial arts schools and centers in South Africa.
- 2.2.6 To design, adopt, register and issue any colours, badges, emblems and uniforms defined in sections 11 of Act 23 of 1935 or any amendment thereof
- 2.2.7 To set criteria for national colours in consultation with each member and maintain an up to date register of colours criteria
- 2.2.8 To approve members applications for national colours and official international tours and submit such applications to the relevant authorities for acceptance.
- 2.2.9 To organise seminars, workshops and demonstrations.
- 2.2.10 Assist in procuring equipment and literature, particularly for development initiatives.
- 2.2.11 Exchange information, promote the martial arts and publish newsletters utilising the print and/or electronic media.
- 2.2.12 Adopt a policy of non interference in members affairs unless such affairs are in conflict with the membership or constitutional requirements.
- 2.2.13 Mediate in conflicts amongst members such that a beneficial solution for all parties is achieved.
- 2.2.14 Be involved in the safe-keeping of martial arts historical items and documentation.
- 2.1.15 Advocating and promoting of legislation to government for the control the martial arts. In particular with respect of the use of illegal substances and other health issues.
- 2.2.16 Undertake any other project that will assist in achieving the purpose as stated in 2.1.
- 2.2.17 Maintain a current register of members and affiliates.

3. The Body Corporate

The structure of the Body Corporate is as attached in Appendix 1

3.1 The Annual Congress

- 3.1.1 The Annual Congress shall be the highest organ of MASA and shall execute and validate the following: Constitutional Amendments, President's Report, Financial Reports, Annual Budget, Membership Matters, and Election of Officials etc.
- 3.1.2 The President shall call a Congress annually. The Annual Congress must be held within 13 months of the last Annual Congress and not later than 6 months after the end of the financial year. 1 calendar month notice must be given to members of the date of the Annual Congress.
- 3.1.3 The Annual Congress shall consist of members, MASA officials and invited representatives and shall be Chaired by the President of MASA..
- 3.1.4 A quorum for the Annual Congress shall be 50% + 1 of voting members or their proxies. All decisions require a simple majority except in the case of Constitutional

Amendments which require a greater than 75% (seventy five percent) majority. The Chairperson will have a casting vote. Each member shall be represented by one voting delegate and one observer at the Annual Congress. Written proxies with specific voting instructions duly signed by the absent member will be accepted by the Chairperson

- 3.1.5 In the absence of a quorum, a new meeting will be called with seven calendar day's notice, at which no quorum will be required.
- 3.1.6 A Special General Meeting may be called on 7 (seven) calendar days notice by a) the presentation to the President of a request for such a meeting signed by more than 66% (sixty six percent) of registered, paid up members or b) at its discretion by the National Executive Committee. Such a meeting is called to handle extraordinary situations or to resolve National Executive Committee disputes and/or deadlocks and, if necessary, to elect a new committee. The meeting will discuss only the issue(s) for which it was called. Special General Meetings shall conform to the rules for an Annual Congress.

3.2 National Executive Committee (NEC)

- 3.2.1 The NEC shall execute the decisions of the Annual Congress and act on emergency matters which must later be ratified by the Annual Congress. The NEC shall be responsible for the ongoing management of MASA as mandated by the Annual Congress.
- 3.2.2 The NEC shall meet at least quarterly and more often as required. Any member may attend meetings of the NEC as a non voting observer, at the discretion of the Chairperson
- 3.2.3 The quorum shall be more than half of the NEC officials. Proxies will not be accepted; however absent committee members may submit written opinions. All decisions require a simple majority vote. The Chairperson will be the President, or in his/her absence a NEC member elected by the other members for that meeting. The Chairperson has a casting vote.
- 3.2.4 The following officials make up the NEC:
 - President
 - General Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Development Director
 - 2 Representatives per Block
- 3.2.5 The term of office for all elected officials is three (3) years after which they must retire, but may stand for re-election at the Annual Congress.
- 3.2.6 Nominations for the NEC will be accepted by the Chairperson at the Annual Congress every three (3) *years* and voting will be by secret ballot. Each block will have two (2) votes to elect office bearers. Candidates with the highest number of votes will be elected to office. Each block may make multiple nominations and the vote for the election of block representatives will be open only to the members of that block. In the case of a deadlock for block representatives, the Chairperson will have the casting vote. All nominees may be required by the Chairperson to make a public presentation to Congress of the merits of their nomination.
- 3.2.7 The NEC is empowered to co-opt any additional member representatives to it, create subcommittees and co-opt any member representatives onto any subcommittee. Such members co-opted to the NEC will not have voting rights.
- 3.2.8 The NEC may at its discretion appoint patrons, honorary members, life members and trustees.
- 3.2.9 Functions of the elected office bearers

The President shall supervise and manage MASA as an on-going concern. The President shall be an *ex officio* member of all committees or sub committees appointed by MASA NEC.

The Secretary shall be responsible for all correspondence, filing, meeting minutes and other matters of a secretarial nature, including the maintenance of an updated membership register and the issue of membership certificates. The Secretary shall also be responsible for all matters relating to the application for, and awarding of colours to national teams.

The Treasurer shall ensure that a proper set of financial books is maintained and current. He/she shall be responsible for opening and controlling banking accounts for MASA and for the collection of registration and affiliation fees. He/she will be responsible for all financial matters and will ensure that the accounts are audited on an annual basis. He/she will ensure that all financial transactions are authorized by a minimum of two NEC member signatures.

The Development Director is responsible for advising and assisting in any development activity of the members. He/she will be responsible for disadvantaged, elite and sustaining development. The Development Director is mandated with setting up a Development Committee that is representative of all members.

The Block Representatives are responsible for ensuring that the interest of the members within their blocks is proper and fully represented. In this, they are mandated to report back to their members after each Executive Council Meeting and bring any matters raised by their members to the next meeting. A member is allocated to its specific Block by the directive of the NEC. The allocation of members to blocks will be specified by the NEC and published from time to time with the membership criteria.

3.3 Regional Council

The National Executive can, if it will serve the purpose of furthering the objectives of MASA, set up a Regional Council representing all provinces and sub regions in South Africa. It will report to the NEC through the Development Director. Regional Council representatives will be nominated and elected by region and will meet annually concurrent with the Annual Congress. Regional Councilors will be responsible for representing MASA in their regions.

4. Powers

4.1 MASA

- 4.1.1 **MASA** shall be a legal person, existing autonomously, be entitled to own property, conclude legal transactions and enter into legal actions.
- 4.1.2 The **NEC** will act on behalf of **MASA** except when the **Annual Congress** is in session
- 4.1.3 **MASA** may employ officials to act as the executive officer and/or secretariat of **MASA**.
- 4.1.4 **MASA**, all its committees and individuals will be subject to the constitution and rules and regulations as defined and modified from time to time.

4.2 National Executive Committee (NEC)

- 4.2.1 Will be responsible for managing the day to day affairs of **MASA**

- 4.2.2 May fill vacancies which may arise in the Council until the next Annual Congress
- 4.2.2 May terminate the appointment of any NEC member who is absent from 3 consecutive NEC meetings (including the National Congress) without good reason.
- 4.2.3 May employ staff on behalf of **MASA**
- 4.2.4 Will consider and authorise membership applications.
- 4.2.5 Can take disciplinary action against any member.
- 4.2.6 Can authorize testing for illegal performance enhancing substances at any time and at any competition held under the authority of any of its members, according to current legislation, and invoke the penalties as laid out in the Rules & Regulations.
- 4.2.7 May constitute standing and ad hoc committees and appoint representatives to these committees
- 4.2.8 Is authorised to settle disputes amongst members.
- 4.2.9 Must keep proper financial records and prepare annual financial statements
- 4.2.10 To accept full and final responsibility between Annual congresses for all its actions taken on behalf of **MASA**.

5. Financial

5.1 Financial Institutions

MASA shall open and operate accounts at financial institutions as recommended by the **Treasurer** and ratified by the **Annual Congress**.

5.2 Income

The expenses of **MASA** shall be financed from registration fees, affiliation fees, membership fees, donations, sponsorship and other income.

5.3 Fees

The amount of registration, affiliation and annual membership fees shall be determined at the **Annual Congress**. If membership fees are not paid by the date of the **Annual Congress**, that member will not be entitled to vote.

5.4 Financial Year

The financial year shall run from 1st March to the last day of February.

5.5 Auditors

Auditors will be appointed at the **Annual Congress**

6 Membership

6.1 Members

All Federations, Councils, Committees, Authorities, Umbrella Groups or similar bodies representing a specific martial art shall be eligible for membership of **MASA** subject to the published membership criteria being met. Any martial arts which have only minor stylistic differences or are essentially the same, but are controlled by different bodies, must form themselves into an umbrella group and submit application for membership to **MASA** as the umbrella group.

6.2 Blocks

All members representing specific martial arts shall be allocated to specific blocks as specified by the NEC from time to time. The members of a block must create a constitution for the block that is not in conflict with the **MASA** constitution. Blocks shall meet a minimum of twice a year. At block meetings, amongst other matters, the block representatives will report back to the members on the activities of the **NEC** and will take instructions on any matters to be taken back to the **NEC**.

6.3 Membership and Registration Fee

The **NEC** is authorised to set Registration and Membership fees from time to time. Such fees are to be ratified by the **Annual Congress**.

6.4 Payment and Collection of Fees

Members are individually responsible for the collection of fees from their groups, clubs and individuals, and the payment thereof to **MASA**. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the receipt and banking of current fees and is also charged with the chasing of outstanding fees.

6.5 Termination

Any member may file a request in writing, clearly stating the reasons why any member's registration should be terminated. The procedure is laid out in A2.

7 Legal & Other

7.1 Registered Office

The registered office of **MASA** shall be at whichever place in the RSA, **MASA** determines.

7.2 Official Language

The official language of **MASA** shall be English.

7.3 Liability of Members

The liability of members shall be limited. Every voting member undertakes upon the dissolution of **MASA** to pay an amount not exceeding one Rand to cover the debts and obligations of **MASA** incurred whilst they were a member and the costs of liquidation. There shall be no liability attached to the non voting members.

7.4 Indemnity

The **NEC** and all other office bearers of **MASA** are hereby through the means of funds and property held by **MASA** indemnified from any losses, claims, costs, compensation and other costs and obligations which they incur or meet with regards to or in relation to the execution of their various obligations as office-bearers of **MASA**, and none of them shall be held responsible for any action or neglect on the side of any one of them or for any shortage or inadequacy of propriety right of security, and none of them shall be held responsible for any action or neglect on the side of any one of them or any loss that may be caused, accident that may occur or damage that may be done or that may arise in the execution of their various official duties or as a consequence thereof: provided however, that any such loss, accident or damage was not caused by action in bad faith or deliberate negligence of such office-bearers.

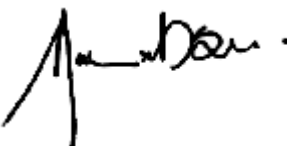
7.5 Usage of Funds

The funds and property of **MASA** from whatever source obtained, shall be devoted exclusively toward the promotion of its objectives and no portion thereof may either directly or indirectly be paid or transferred by way of dividends, bonus or in any other manner whatsoever in the form of profit to members; provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment of any reward made in good faith to any officer or servant of **MASA** or any member thereof in return of services actually rendered to **MASA**.

7.6 Dissolution

MASA shall have continuous succession and shall continue to exist, notwithstanding changes in its membership, until nine tenths of the number of members at the Annual Congress either in person or by proxy decide to dissolve **MASA**, provided that the dissolution appeared on the agenda which accompanied notification of the Annual Congress. Should there in the event of dissolution of **MASA** and after all debts, remain any assets, these shall not be divided amongst the members, but shall be transferred to another body or bodies with similar objectives, appointed by the members before or during dissolution.

The constitution in its present form was accepted as the working constitution of MASA on the 7th Day of February 2002.

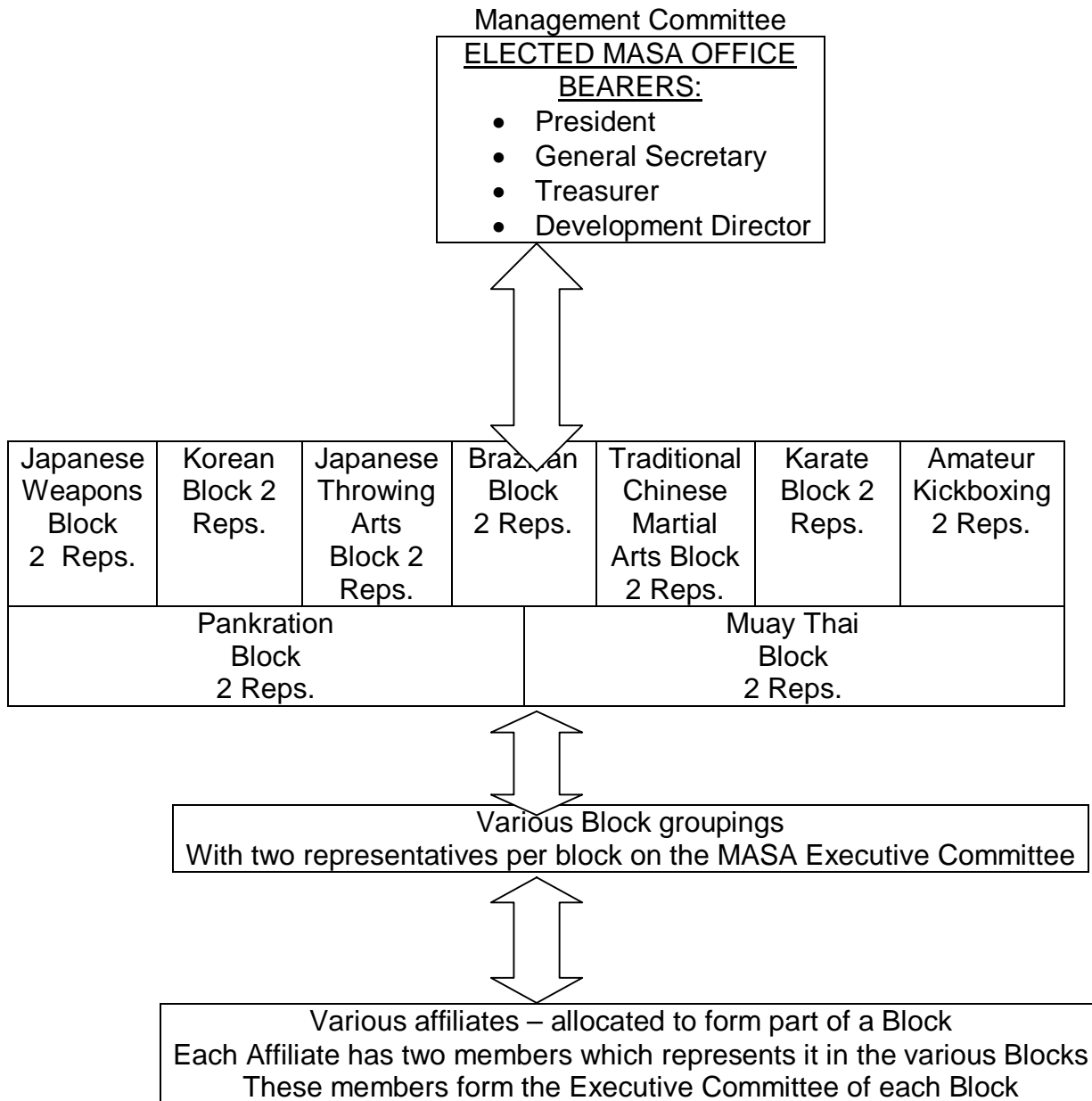


Signed: President

Update 2007: Name Change Martial Arts Authority of South Africa (MAASA) to Martial Arts and Games Commission South Africa (MASA)

Body Corporate

Appendix 1



This system ensures that all members of MASA have equal representation and equal voting rights, both at the Block level and at the National level.

Appendix - A2

Procedure for Termination or Resignation

A2.1 Procedure for Termination

- A2.1.1 The President shall organize an investigation committee
- A2.1.2 The President shall appoint members to the investigation committee
- A2.1.3 The investigation committee shall provide the President with a report and its recommendations
- A2.1.4 The National Executive Committee will make a final decision based upon the report.
- A2.1.5 The Annual Congress shall ratify the decision of the National Executive Committee

A2.2 Matters That Constitute cause for Termination

- A2.2.1 Default of annual membership fee for one year without good reason
- A2.2.2 Bringing the martial arts into disrepute
- A2.2.3 Behaving contrary to the constitution and rules and regulations
- A2.2.4 Behavior inconsistent with that expected of a martial arts body
- A2.2.5 Setting up or being part of a rival body in opposition to MAASA
- A2.2.6 Dealing dishonestly with any MAASA related matters
- A2.2.7 Using banned substances, equipment, drugs or any other illicit activities.
- A2.2.8 Not conforming with the rules, codes and policies of MAASA after being continuously approached by MAASA

A2.3 Procedure for Resignation

- A2.3.1 Members are to resign in writing
- A2.3.2 National Executive Committee to record resignations and report to the Annual Congress

Rules and Regulations

R1 Fees

- R1.1 Normal members - R500-00per block
R100-00per school/club/Do Jang/training location

R2 Behavior

- R2.1 All members of MASA shall at all times act in accordance to the code of conduct Events / National Teams.

R3 Constitution

- R3.1 All members are to ensure that their constitutions are not in conflict with the constitution of MASA

R4 International Competition and Visitors

- R4.1 All invitations to international teams, groups or individuals visiting South Africa for the purpose of official competition for which national colours may be awarded must be approved in writing by the President of MASA or authorized deputy. This must take place three (3) months prior to the date of arrival.

- R4.2 All visits of local teams, groups or individuals who travel overseas for the purpose of official competition, for which national colours may be awarded, must be authorised in writing by the President of MASA or an authorized deputy. This must take place thr4ee (3) months prior to the date of departure.

R5 Colours

- R5.1 All teams selected from open trials to represent South Africa in competition will be eligible for national colours and MASA will make application to the appropriate authorities for such colours to be awarded, based on the published criteria for colours
- R5.2 All trials where National teams are selected must be sanctioned by MASA

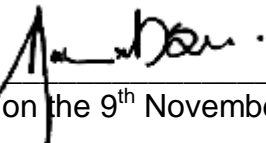
R6 Membership

- R6.1 All bodies seeking membership of MASA must submit the official MASA application form together with all information required. Acceptance as a member will be subject to investigation and approval. On acceptance, the body will be issued with a MASA registration certificate which must be prominently displayed and renewed annually.

Membership Criteria – please note R6.1

- M1. The activity must be what is commonly agreed as a martial art. In borderline cases, representation must be made to MASA, whose decision will be final.
- M2. All members agree to abide to the MASA constitution as may be amended from time to time.
- M3. The affiliates of MASA must supply MASA annually with the number of clubs and members per region in South Africa via their respective blocks.
- M4. All affiliates agree to obtain MASA's approval for all international competitions, whether held locally or internationally.
- M5. The affiliates must submit all applications for National Colours to MASA for approval prior to MASA submitting the application to the relevant sports governing bodies.
- M6. The affiliate must pay its annual fees to MASA by due date.
- M7 All correspondence, colours applications etc. are to be done through the respective block members to MASA
- M8. The affiliates agree to act within the rules, regulations and codes of conduct as published by MASA and as modified from time to time. All affiliates recognise MASA's authority in disciplinary matters and agree to abide by any MASA decisions in this regard.
- M9. All instructors of MASA affiliated clubs/schools must be in possession of a valid first aid certificate.

Signed: President MASA:



Ratified at the AGM held on the 9th November 2002 in Randfontein - Gauteng