

American Amateur Sambo Federation, Inc.

Constitution

Preamble: We, the friends of Sambo Wrestling, do hereby unite to establish a perpetual athletic organization which shall be known as the American Amateur Sambo Federation (AASF). The purpose of this organization shall be to develop, organize, and to promote the sport of amateur sambo wrestling, and the sport of Combat Sambo. This will occur at the local, state, national, and international levels, as an independent sport.

ARTICLE 1

ORGANIZATION

Section 1 - Membership: The membership of this organization shall consist of individual athletes, clubs, and state associations that are members or sanctioned by the American Amateur Sambo Federation.

Section 2 - Executive Committee: The AASF President shall be the head and Presiding Officer of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall possess all the powers allowed by law to:

- Be the sole governing body of the organization;
- Be the final decision-making body in all matters;
- Have primary responsibility for establishing the policies to be followed in carrying out the mission and purpose of the AASF;
- Have the responsibility for overseeing the conduct of the business and affairs of the AASF;
- Have authority over financial disbursements;
- Meet no less frequently than once a year, and at such other times as deemed necessary by the President;

The Executive Committee meetings shall be conducted in accordance with parliamentary procedures as set down in Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 3 - Quorum: A quorum for the transaction of Executive Committee business shall be two (2) Executive Officers and a simple majority of the attending Executive Committee Representatives, or their alternates. The alternates shall be elected or appointed and confirmed.

Section 4 - Federation: The Federation shall be made up of various clubs, which shall be formed by the authority and the supervision of the Executive Committee.

The functions of the various clubs shall be those which are stated in this Constitution and Bylaws and also such reasonable functions as may be authorized by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE II

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Section 1 - Officers: The officers of the American Amateur Sambo Federation shall be the President, Executive Vice President, Special Assistant to the President, Secretary General, Treasurer, Federation Head Coach (Sport and Combat), and members of other committees of AASF. These officers must be United States citizens.

Section 2 - President:

The AASF President shall:

- Be the Chief Executive Officer of AASF;
- Be the presiding officer of the Executive Committee;
- Appoint the chairpersons of the AASF committees;
- Appoint the members of all special committees and subcommittees of the Executive Committee;
- Be a member ex-officio of all committees and
- Assume all duties normally pertaining to the office of President and any other additional duties that this Constitution and Bylaws may allow or prescribe.

Section 3- Executive Vice President:

The Executive Vice President shall:

- Assist the President in the management of AASF;
- Assume all duties normally pertaining to the office of Executive Vice President and such other duties as may be allowed by or prescribed in this Constitution and Bylaws or maybe assigned by the President;
- Assume the duties of the President, should the President be incapacitated or, by previous arrangement with the President, where the President is unavailable.

Section 4 - Special Assistant to the President:

The Special Assistant to the President shall:

- Be appointed by the President;
- Be co-terminus to the term of the President;
- Perform the duties and responsibilities that the President may assign.

Section 5 - Secretary General:

The Secretary General shall:

- Be the Secretary of the Executive Committee;
- Take, make, and distribute minutes of meetings;
- Attend to the publication of official reports;
- Attest documents;

- Send the proposed minutes of a previous meeting to each member of the Executive Committee not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the next meeting of the Executive Committee.
- Write all minutes of each meeting in the manner and format prescribed by the *Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised)*.

Section 6 - Treasurer:

The Treasurer shall:

- Under the direction of the AASF President, Act as the Chief Administrative Officer and Financial Officer;
- File all federal and state government reports;
- Maintain all membership files;
- Maintain all AASF funds, books of account and financial records;
- Receive and deposit AASF funds in such bank or banks as shall be designated by or under the authority of the Executive Committee;
- Disburse such funds in the manner designated by or under the authority of the Executive Committee;
- Render an annual financial report to the Executive Committee, and such special reports as may, from time to time, be called for by the Executive Committee;
- Assume all duties normally pertaining to the office of Treasurer;
- Perform other duties as maybe assigned by the President.

Section 7 - Terms of Office: The President, Executive Vice President, Secretary General, and Treasurer, shall serve two-year terms, without limit to the number of terms served, beginning with the first day following the convention, in each even numbered year.

Section 8 - Vacancy in Office:

- If the office of President becomes vacant through resignation, death, or incapacity, the Executive Vice President shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the office of the President and shall serve out the remainder of the President's term of office as President, or shall serve until such time as the President is again able to serve.
- If the office of Executive Vice President or Treasurer becomes vacant through resignation, death, incapacity or succession, the President shall nominate someone to serve the remaining term of office. A majority vote of the Executive Committee shall confirm the nominee as Executive Vice President or Treasurer.

Section 9 - Executive Committee Meetings: The Executive Committee shall meet no less frequently than once a year and at such other times as are deemed necessary by the President.

Section 10 - Alternate for Executive Officers: In the event that a representative to the Executive Committee is elected to the office of President, Executive Vice President, Secretary General, or Treasurer, the President may appoint someone to serve, in the elected officer's place on the Executive Committee. Only elected or appointed and confirmed alternates will be eligible to vote at Executive Committee meetings.

Section 11 - Removal of Executive Committee Officers: Any charge of misconduct or non-performance must be prefaced in writing. Such accusation must be signed by three or more members of the Executive Committee and submitted to the entire Executive Committee for review. The Secretary General shall furnish a copy of the charges, so made, to the accused officer. After allowing

at least thirty (30) days to pass, the Executive Committee shall hold a fair and impartial hearing. A vote of two-thirds of the members present at such meeting shall be required for suspension or removal from office.

ARTICLE III - CONVENTION & ELECTION

Section 1 - Convention: The American Amateur Sambo Federation shall hold a convention and tournament in each even numbered year. At this convention, an election will be held for the offices of President, Executive Vice President, Secretary General and Treasurer.

Section 2 - Delegates: The members of the Executive Committee, or their Alternates, shall serve as delegates to the convention. An Executive Committee Alternate shall be elected/appointed and confirmed.

Section 3 - Nominations: Nominations for the offices of President, Executive Vice President, Secretary General and Treasurer, shall be opened at the beginning of the convention of the Executive Committee and shall remain open until closed by motion. Nominations for these offices shall be made in writing to the Secretary General or from the floor at the convention. Only members in good standing shall be eligible to hold the office of President, Executive Vice President, Secretary General, and Treasurer.

Section 4 - Elections: At the biennial convention, the delegates shall elect a President, Executive Vice President, Secretary General and Treasurer. Voting shall be by secret ballot. The President shall appoint an Election Committee to distribute, collect and count the ballots. The Election Committee shall report the results of the election to the President and turn the ballots over to the Secretary General who shall keep them on file for no less than one year. For the elections of the President, Executive Vice President, Secretary General and Treasurer, the President shall declare as the winner, the person whom the Election Committee reported to have received a simple majority of the votes cast. If none of the candidates received a simple majority, a secret ballot run-off election shall be held between the two candidates who received the highest number of votes.

ARTICLE IV - DUES

Section 1 - Dues: The annual dues of the members shall be set by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the Executive Committee at the biennial convention.

ARTICLE V - AMENDMENTS

Section 1 - Amendments: This Constitution and Bylaws shall be amended only upon a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the members of the Executive Committee. The proposed amendment must be submitted in writing, with copies for the Executive Committee representatives, at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE VI - AUDIT

Section 1 - Audit: At the close of each fiscal year, the President shall appoint an Audit Committee consisting of three members of the Executive Committee, to audit the financial records of AASF. A copy of this audit report shall be retained by the Treasurer and distributed to the Executive

Committee. The audit report shall also be made available for inspection, upon written notice, by any member in good standing.

ARTICLE VII - ENFORCEMENT

Section 1: It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to insure that all provisions of this Constitution and Bylaws are adhered to and that the AASF complies with all applicable Federal and State laws.

Section 2: Any member who feels that this Constitution and Bylaws are not being adhered to, or that the organization is not complying with Federal or State laws, should file a complaint with the Executive Committee. The complaint shall be in writing and indicate what is alleged to have been violated, and must be signed by the complainant. Following receipt of such complaint, the President, with the approval of the Executive Committee, shall appoint a special committee of no less than three (3) Executive Committee representatives to investigate the complaint, and report its findings to the Executive Committee. Should the complaint be found valid by the Executive Committee, they shall take the appropriate corrective action.

Section 3: Members who feel that they have not been properly represented, or who feel that their rights have been violated by the AASF, may file a formal complaint with the AASF President. If the complaint is in reference to the actions of the President, the complaint shall be filed with the Executive Committee. The complaint shall be in writing, indicate the allegations, what relief is sought, and must be signed by the complainant. Following receipt of such complaint, the President shall appoint a special committee of no less than three (3) members to investigate the complaint and report its findings to the President. The complainant shall be notified, in writing, of the findings. The complainant has thirty (30) days from the day of the notification of the findings to appeal the decision to the Executive Committee. Also, if the complaint has not been adjudicated within sixty (60) days after receipt, the complainant may file the complaint directly with the Executive Committee. All allegations, findings, and decisions shall be filed with the AASF Secretary General.

ARTICLE VIII

ORGANIZATION PROTECTION

Section 1 - Savings Clause: If any provision of this Constitution shall be declared invalid or inoperative by any competent authority of the executive, judicial, or administrative branch of the federal or state government of the United States, the Executive Committee shall have the authority to suspend the operation of such provision during the period of its invalidity, and to substitute in its place, a valid provision which shall be in accord with the original intent and purpose.

Bylaws

ARTICLE ONE : LEGAL IDENTITY

Section1 - Formation: A State Federation may be formed by authority, and under the supervision of the Executive Committee in order to maintain a not for profit status.

Section 2 - Name: The Official Name of this organization is *American Amateur Sambo Federation*. The officially approved abbreviation of this title is **AASF**.

Section 3 - DESCRIPTION: This organization is a national sport federation, established to govern the amateur sport of accordance with the principles set forth in the Olympic Charter of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The organization is composed of affiliated local Federations from various geographic regions in which the sport of sambo is practiced, who have voluntarily assembled to freely and democratically constitute themselves into a National Federation with the goal of organizing, harmoniously developing, and assuring the future of the sport of sambo and of sambo competition, within their respective domains and throughout the country.

Section 4 - LEGAL PERSONALITY: Effective January, 2001, AASF became a non-profit sport organization in the State of New York.

Section 5 - HEADQUARTERS: The AASF headquarters shall be at such location as the AASF Executive Committee may select and shall remain in such location, until such time as the Executive Committee shall authorize the transfer of the headquarters to another location.

Section 6 - EMBLEM AND SEAL: The Executive Committee has adopted by majority vote, the official emblem and seal, as well as other official names or marks.

Section 7 - OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: The official language of the AASF is English. In the event of dispute, the English translation of any official document shall prevail.

ARTICLE TWO

PURPOSE, AIMS, AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1 - PURPOSE: The primary purpose of this organization is to serve as the national governing body for sambo, and in that capacity, to foster national and international sambo training and competition generally and primarily by conducting national and international sports events and by developing and supporting Sambo athletes for such competition. The AASF shall also conduct educational programs for the teaching of sambo and evaluating Sambo athletes.

Section 2 - AIMS: The AASF shall maintain and promote the conditions which encourage the practice and the development of the sport of sambo at all competition and recreational levels. The Federation shall strive to advance the educational values of fair play and the pressure of the match. AASF adheres to the aims of the Olympic movement as set forth below:

- To promote the development of those physical and moral qualities which are the basis of sport.
- To educate young people through sport in a spirit of better understanding between each other and of friendship, thereby helping to build a better and more peaceful world.
- To spread the Olympic principles throughout the world, thereby creating international goodwill.
- To bring together the sambo athletes of the world in sport competition.

Section 3 - OBJECTIVES: To develop the sport of sambo, AASF shall undertake the following endeavors:

- Implement development programs in all areas of need.

- Facilitate the manufacture and provision of comparable equipment and facilities for all regions.
- Organize courses to train and educate athletes, coaches and officials.
- Recognize the true importance of regional and national competition and strive for the greatest possible diversification to respond to the needs, desires and aptitudes of the great mass of sports people.

ARTICLE THREE - RULES AND FUNCTIONS

Section 1 - GENERAL RULES: The democratically established authority of AASF, as approved by the affiliated local Federations, and subject to their periodic review, subject to the authority of the Executive Committee, shall be to act as set forth below:

- Coordinate the activities of affiliated local Federations.
- Insure, in all areas in which sambo events take place, conditions which confirm to the officials rules of competition and nay rules of operation democratically adopted by the Executive Committee, with respect to the moral and physical well-being of competitors, and which encourage youth to continue and enhance the tradition and the practices of their predecessors.
- Guarantee through rules of competition and by promoting the highest standards of competence of officials that every competitor participates with equal opportunity.
- Promote administrative structures which enable competitors to contribute to the management and development of the sport of sambo and to have the right to a fair hearing in all cases involving sanctions.

Section2 - ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS: AASF shall have complete autonomy within the sport of sambo and exclusive authority to act as set forth below:

- Legislate on the specific rules and requirements of the sport of sambo in the United States of America.
- Classify competitors into categories consistent with the nature of the sport of sambo.
- Define the status and eligibility of competitors.
- Specify the relationship of the sport of sambo with commercial organizations.
- Promote rules destined to protect the health and well-being of competitors.
- Adopt preventative measures against all unethical and illicit practices.
- Regulate site and equipment requirements.
- Establish calendars of Championships and major events.
- Qualify, certify, and appoint technical officials (including judges and referees).
- Train and evaluate practitioners.
- Collect, examine and ratify appropriate records.

Section 3 - FINANCIAL FUNCTIONS: AASF shall take all necessary measures to control the fiscal management of its activities, to audit and make all accounting available for inspection by the Executive Committee. AASF shall use its income, as well as its administrative and prestige expenditures for the development of the sport of sambo at all levels. The receipt of funds from media, government or commercial sources, shall never prejudice the independence of AASF of limit the control of the affairs within its competence.

Section 4 - GENERAL FUNCTIONS: AASF shall undertake to accomplish the general functions set forth below:

- Maintain appropriate relations with governments and governmental organizations, appreciating governmental support but affirming the autonomy and independence of the AASF and its affiliated local Federations and reaffirming opposition to all political or economic interference.
- Cooperate for its common aims with non-governmental sports organizations at the national and international level, recognizing the role of all organizations as essential partners in sport and the expression of sport with the spirit of the Olympic movement.
- Collaborate with the media in promoting a better knowledge and understanding of sport in general and the sport or sambo in specific, attracting sponsors and event organizer so to generate revenue for the development of sport, publish and broadcast the positive, ethical and educational aspects of sport, give fair exposure to participants, emphasize the technical prowess of competitors rather than indulging in sensationalism, and provide technical information.
- Fight against doping by defining and issuing lists of forbidden substances and practice, designate which competitors should be tested, establish testing procedures, pronounce punitive sanctions after fair hearing, oversee application of sanctions by National Federations, make and apply effective regulations to restrict and control doping, open borders to delegates appointed to conduct tests, and promote and implement large-scale preventative educational programs.
- Fight against violence by updating regulations and taking all possible measures to avoid malicious violence, as well as by cooperating actively with public authorities, within the limits of the authority of AASF.

ARTICLE FOUR - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - MEMBERSHIP: The AASF membership shall consist only of AASF members who are in good standing, and who are eligible for membership as defined in this Constitution and Bylaws. The Executive Committee shall arbitrate all disputes concerning membership

Section 2 - OFFICERS: The elected officers of AASF shall be President, Executive Vice President, Secretary General, and Treasurer.

Section 3 - PRESIDENT: The President shall preside at all AASF meetings, act as the AASF principal spokesperson; manage key international and governmental relationship; serve as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee; and perform such other duties as may be assigned by vote of the Executive Committee.

Section 4 - EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT: The Executive Vice President shall:

- Assist the President in the management of AASF;
- Assist the President in presiding over AASF meetings;
- Preside over AASF meetings in the President's absence;
- Perform such other duties as may be prescribed in, or allow by the Constitution or Bylaws, or assigned by the President.

Section 5 - SECRETARY GENERAL: The AASF Secretary General shall also be designated as Secretary to the Executive Committee and shall keep the seal and records of AASF; take, make and distribute the minutes of the meeting; attend to the publication of official reports, attest documents, and perform such other duties as may be assigned by vote of the Executive Committee. The minutes of AASF meetings shall be written in the manner and format prescribed by the Robert's Rules of

Order (Newly Revised). Proposed minutes of a previous meeting shall be sent to each member not less than fifteen (15) days prior.

Additional duties of the AASF Secretary General:

- Record, sign, maintain the minutes of all the proceedings of each AASF meeting after the minutes have been corrected and approved;
- Do the necessary correspondence;
- Maintain a file of all correspondence sent and received;
- Maintain membership file

Section 6 - TREASURER:

The Treasurer shall:

- Be the Chief Administrative and Financial Officer of the organization under the direction of the President.
- File all federal and state government reports;
- Maintain financial records;
- Perform the duties normally pertaining to the office of the Treasurer, and such other duties as may be assigned by the President.

Section 7 - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Representative/Executive Committee Alternate:

Executive Committee Representative: AASF members shall elect their representative(s) to the Executive Committee, who shall be known as the Executive Committee representative(s).

Duties of the Executive Committee Representative

- Attend and represent AASF at meetings of the Executive Committee;
- Serve as a delegate to the biennial convention for the election of the Executive Officers;
- Perform other duties as this Constitution and Bylaws may require and allow.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ALTERNATE: AASF members shall elect an Executive Committee Alternate for every Executive Committee position. The Alternate is elected to serve in the absence of the Executive Committee Representative. Only duly elected Executive Committee Alternates, may vote in the absence of the regular Executive Committee Representative during Executive Committee meetings or vote for the Executive Officers at the biennial convention.

Section 8 - REMOVAL OF OFFICERS:

Any charge of misconduct must be prefaced in writing, such accusations to be signed by three (3) or more AASF members, and submitted to two (2) AASF officers. These officers shall furnish a copy of the charges to the accused and, after allowing at least thirty (30) days, but not more than sixty (60) days to pass, shall hold a fair and impartial hearing at the AASF meeting. A majority vote of the members present at such meeting shall be required for suspension or removal from office, of the accused.

ARTICLE FIVE - MEETINGS & AUDIT

Section 1 - Meetings: A quorum for the transaction of AASF business shall consist of two (2) Officers, one (1) Executive Committee Representative, or elected or appointed and confirmed alternate, and three (3) additional members.

Section 2 - Audit: Each year, at the January meeting, the President shall appoint an Auditing Committee consisting of three (3) or more members, it shall be the duty of this committee to audit the AASF books. If AASF chooses, this audit may be performed by a Certified Public Accountant, the cost of which shall be the responsibility of the AASF. A report of this audit shall be sent to the AASF Treasurer to be put on file.

ARTICLE SIX

WORLD TEAM SELECTION

Section 1 - SELECTION COMMITTEE:

The selection committee will consist of four members of the AASF appointed by the President, one from each of the following groups:

- An AASF National Coach;
- A licensed, active FIAS level Referee/Judge;
- The AASF President or designated representative;
- An athlete representative as an observer.

Section 2 - CRITERIA FOR SELECTION:

- The athlete must hold a current AASF membership card;
- The athlete must have placed in the top six at the American Amateur Sambo Federation Qualifying Tournament;
- The athlete must be deemed to be of sound moral character, good sportsmanship, and be a good representative of the AASF and the United States of America;
- Espoir athletes and below this age must be permanent residents of the USA;
- Senior age athletes must be a United States citizen and be eligible for a valid United States Passport.

Section 3 - SELECTION FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM:

- The first place qualifier at the American Amateur Sambo Federation Qualifying Tournament is the automatic world team member in the event there are no challengers;
- In the absence of a formal challenge, the right of first refusal will go to the first through sixth place finishers in declining order.
- The Champion may be challenged by the second through sixth place finishers in his/her weight class and age division;
- The Champion may be challenged by any individual who has petitioned for special consideration.

Section 4 - THE CHALLENGE LADDER:

- Challengers must win their bouts in head to head competition, single elimination. The eventual winner of the challenge ladder will wrestle off with the National Champion in a best of three matches format.

Challenge Ladder Example

#6 seed	winner	winner	winner	winner	winner
vs. >	vs. >	vs. >	vs. >	vs. >	vs. >
petitioner	#5 seed	#4 seed	#3 seed	#2 seed	Champion

- In deference to the Champion and/or #1 seed and final challenger, the results of common bouts at the American Amateur Sambo Federation Qualifying Tournament will count as a win or loss in the best of three format. For example, since the Champion has won the qualifying tournament, the challenger must win back to back in order to win the spot on the world team unless he/she won a common bout at the qualifying tournament;
- Current FIAS rules shall govern all challenge matches.

Section 5 - PETITION TO CHALLENGE AND SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Any athlete who has been a competitor for the AASF at the World Cup, World Championships, or Qualifying Tournament Champion, in the previous year of competition, may petition for placement on the challenge ladder without having qualified provided he/she meets in addition to the criteria in Section 2:
 - Has filled out the application and paid the entry fee for the National American Amateur Sambo Federation Tournament.
 - Submits a challenge fee of \$300 with the petition.
 - The athlete was absent for the following reasons:
 - a) Illness or injury accompanied by a licensed physician's certificate of such and a release for competition;
 - b) Death or serious illness in the family;
 - c) Acts of God (severe weather, flood, etc.);
 - d) Any other excuse determined valid by the selection committee.
 - All athletes who wish to petition the challenge ladder must petition the AASF President in writing, send the petition by certified or registered mail, no later than 30 days following completion of the American Amateur Sambo Federation Qualifying Tournament. All documentation and fees must be paid at this time.

Section 6 - SEEDING OF PETITIONERS TO CHALLENGE:

- Petitioning to challenge up or down one weight class is permissible only to the first or second place finishers in a weight category. Their replacement in the challenge ladder will be under the lowest placed challenger who qualified at the American Amateur Sambo Federation Qualifying Tournament, but ahead of those accepted under special consideration. Athletes may only challenge in the age division they participated in the American Amateur Sambo Federation Qualifying Tournament.

Section 7 - SELECTION TO WORLD CUP AND WORLD GAMES TEAMS:

Qualifying Tournament Champions will automatically be selected as the AASF members of the World Cup or World Games teams. Alternates will be selected by the right of first refusal for first through sixth place finishers in declining order. There is no formal challenge for these teams.

ARTICLE SEVEN - IMPLEMENTATION

Section 1: These Bylaws shall serve as the constitutional document of the organization. These Bylaws may be supplemented by rules of operation adopted by the Executive Committee to govern any area of operation of AASF. These Bylaws are established and effected as the first day of January, 2001, and subject to periodic amendment by the Executive Committee in accordance with the provisions set forth in these bylaws.

ARTICLE EIGHT - AMENDMENTS

Section 1 - REQUIRED MAJORITY: Amendments to these Bylaws may be made by a majority vote of the current members of the Executive Committee with the approval of the majority of the current members of AASF.

Section 2 - EFFECTIVE DATE: Amendments shall take effect starting on the first day of January of the year immediately following adoption of the amendment.

ARTICLE NINE - DISSOLUTION

Section 1 - FINAL MEETING: Dissolution of AASF may only take place at an extraordinary meeting of the Executive Committee, called for the exclusive purpose of dissolving AASF, at which meeting such dissolution must be the only item on the agenda. The Quorum for such a meeting shall be the majority of the voting membership and that decision shall be made by at least the majority of the members present.

Section 2 - DISPOSITION OF ASSETS: Upon dissolution of AASF, any assets belonging to ASSF shall be dispersed to such charitable object as the Executive Committee or the President may designate, in behalf of the members.



Dr. David Rudman, President

01/31/2005



Dr. Jack Kogan, General Secretary

01/31/2005