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## **INTERNAL RULES OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF YOUTH SECTION**

### **ARTICLE 1 - ORGANISATION**

#### **1.1. NAME**

- a. The name of the organisation is World Federation of the Deaf Youth Section, abbreviated as “WFDYS” and will be referred throughout this document as WFDYS.
- b. The WFDYS held its first official Youth Forum in Vienna, Austria, at the World Congress of the Deaf in 1995. Previous Youth Groups existed at the 1987 and 1991 World Congresses.

#### **1.2. LOCATION**

- a. The WFDYS is located at the office of the World Federation of the Deaf (abbreviated as “WFD”) Secretariat.

#### **1.3. LANGUAGE**

- a. International Sign shall be used at all meetings and function(s) of the WFDYS.
- b. English shall be the official written language of the WFDYS.

#### **1.4. STATUS**

- a. WFDYS is an official section of the WFD. The WFD Internal Rules and Statutes should be followed where the Internal Rules of WFDYS are unclear or do not cover any contingency.
- b. WFDYS Action Plans are submitted to the WFD Board for final approval.

#### **1.5. EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES**

- a. The WFD Board shall take over the WFDYS responsibilities if the WFDYS becomes inactive.

#### **1.6. COMPOSITION**

- a. The WFDYS comprises of elected members as according to delegates at the Youth General Assembly (refer to Article 4).



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### ARTICLE 2 - AIMS

#### 2.1. AIMS

The aims of the WFDYS are:

- a. To advocate, through a variety of means such as Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, for Deaf Youth within the WFD, at World Congresses, and at other national and international gatherings of Deaf people.
- b. The WFDYS aims are in accordance with those of the WFD, as presented in the WFD Statutes.

### ARTICLE 3 - MEMBERSHIP

#### 3.1. WFD YOUTH ORDINARY MEMBER

Definition: Only National Youth Organisations of Deaf people with a clear majority of Deaf voting members, a governing board with a majority of Deaf persons and goals similar to the aims of the WFDYS and WFD are eligible for Youth Ordinary Membership. These organisations will hereafter be referred to as Youth Ordinary Members or abbreviated as “YOMs”.

- a. The Ordinary Member of the WFD must recognise the Youth Organisation as a YOM of WFD.
- b. YOM is limited to one national organisation in each country. If two or more national organisations exist in any country and are unable to become united into a single organisation, please refer to WFD Statutes Article 3, Section 1.
- c. The YOM can send delegates to the WFDYS Youth General Assembly with voting rights. The YOM cannot be an official delegate at the WFD General Assembly.
- d. Official information submitted from WFD General Secretariat focused on youth-related issues to be sent to OMs and YOMs.

#### 3.2. YOUTH SECTIONS OF WFD ORDINARY MEMBERS

Definition: All Youth Sections under the National Deaf Association (WFD Ordinary Member) will be regarded as the represents of the Youth in the specific OM country *where there is no YOM as defined in 3.1.* OM should forward information to the Youth Section. Membership fees will be covered by the OM (see WFD Statutes, Article 13, Section 2.).

- a. The Youth Section of a single OM can send delegates to the WFDYS Youth General Assembly with voting rights.



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### **3.3. MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES**

- a. Membership categories of the WFD Statutes (2007) include YOM and Individual Youth Members. Membership fees are required as determined at the WFD General Assembly.

## **ARTICLE 4 - THE YOUTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **4.1. YOUTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Definition: The Youth General Assembly is the official decision-making body of the WFDYS, subject to the final jurisdiction of the WFD. The WFDYS Youth Assembly shall be held every 4 years, during the World Congresses of the World Federation of the Deaf.

- a. Each Youth Ordinary Member (YOM) or Youth Section as supported by the Ordinary Member (OM) of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) is entitled to send a delegation to the WFDYS Youth Assembly. Delegations shall consist of a maximum of two delegates, with one vote per YOM or OM.
  - I. Delegates must be nominated by their YOM and OM. The official delegate form and all supporting materials must reach the WFD General Secretariat at least three months before the first day of the Youth Assembly.
  - II. In case there is an Independent Deaf Youth Organisation in the same country as an OM, they both should designate authority for the nominees.
  - III. Delegates must be Deaf and between the ages of 18 - 30 on the first day of the Youth General Assembly.
  - IV. In the case of two citizens or permanent residents of a single country being nominated by separate YOM and OM, only one nominee nominated by each of the YOM and OM of their country of citizenship will be accepted and the other nomination declined.
  - V. Youth representing countries without an OM are allowed to be nonvoting observers of the Youth General Assembly.
- b. The WFDYS President will issue a Call to the Youth General Assembly containing an Agenda at least four months in advance of the WFD World Congress during which the Youth Assembly is taking place.
- c. The final agenda and supporting materials shall be sent to all YOM and/or OM at least 2 months in advance from the first day of the WFD World Congress.



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### 4.2. PARTICIPATION

- a. Delegates shall assume responsibility for their own travel and other expenses while attending Youth General Assemblies.

### 4.3. LANGUAGE

- a. International Sign shall be used for communication within the Youth General Assembly.
- b. No interpreters are to be used during the Youth General Assembly.

### 4.4. FUNCTIONS OF THE YOUTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*The functions of the Youth General Assembly are to:*

- I. Review the previous WFDYS Term's Activities.
- II. Approve an Action Plan for the next WFDYS Term.
- III. Select the hosts for applicable WFD Camps.
- IV. Elect the WFD Youth Section for the next term.
- V. Accept motions from delegates.
- VI. To consider and vote on all submitted recommendations and proposals.
- VII. To review and approve submitted reports on activities of the Youth.
- VIII. To review and approve WFDYS financial reports.

### 4.5. VOTING

- a. Each officially certified delegation is allowed one vote for all Youth General Assembly votes.
- b. The Assembly shall choose two counters of votes from among its participants or other people proposed by the WFDYS.
- c. Voting may be made by roll call, by show of hands, or if requested by at least one delegate, by secret ballot.
- d. All proposals except for changes to the Internal Rules or dissolution of the WFDYS will be decided by a simply majority vote. In the event of a tie on any matter except Camp Bids or elections, debate will be reopened on the topic and a revote will be taken. If a tie continues on the second vote, the President shall, after consultation with the WFDYS, cast the deciding vote.



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- e. Votes on Camp Bids and elections of the WFDYS will be conducted by secret ballot only. If a vote on the Camp Bid remains tied after the second vote, the matter shall be remanded to the newly selected members of the WFDYS to decide.
- f. The WFDYS can only be dissolved by a 2/3 vote of the Youth General Assembly, followed by a majority vote of the WFD Board.

### **4.6. INTERNAL RULES**

- a. Changes to the internal rules can be proposed by
  - I. A ratio of 4/7 Vote of the WFDYS, or
  - II. A Majority vote of the WFD board, or
  - III. Any YOM or Ordinary Member delegation to the Youth General Assembly.
- b. Changes to these internal rules require approval, in order, by the following:
  - I. A ratio of 2/3 vote of the current and next Youth General Assembly following the one in which the change was proposed, and
  - II. A Majority of the WFD board.
- c. A provisional change to the internal rules can be implemented with a 5/7 vote of the sitting WFDYS, in quorum, and approval of the WFD board. The provisional change is in effect for the remainder of one term only and must be approved by the next immediate Youth General Assembly.

## **ARTICLE 5 - THE YOUTH SECTION**

### **5.1. ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH SECTION**

- a. Elections are to be held at the quadrennial Youth General Assembly.
- b. The WFDYS will consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and four members.
- c. Each YOM or OM per country is entitled to nominate one person to the WFDYS.
- d. If a YOM and OM is unable to support a nominee financially, it can delegate financial support to another organisation. This organisation must then provide its signatures on the appropriate form and attach a letter certifying its financial support.
- e. The Youth General Assembly reserves the right to reject nominations which does not meet the criteria above, or which are sponsored by organisations which do not share the philosophy and goals of the WFD and WFDYS.



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- f. Nomination forms and all supporting material must reach at the WFD General Secretariat at latest three months before the start of the WFD Congress where the Youth Assembly takes place. Nominations which do not meet this deadline will not be accepted, except nominations sent by postal mail which must be postmarked the date of the final deadline.
- g. All nominees must be Deaf and between the ages of 18-30 on the first day of the Youth General Assembly.
- h. A YOM or OM can nominate a single individual for more than one post. However, the individual can only serve in a single post.
- i. There is no limit to the number of terms an individual can serve, providing the individual meets age guidelines.
- j. At least ONE member of the previous WFDYS must continue in a new period to monitor the new WFDYS team to carry out responsibilities.

### **5.2. EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES**

- a. If there are not enough candidates nominated by YOM and/or OMs within the three-month deadline to fill all WFDYS positions, elections will be held to ensure all nominees have the majority support of the Youth General Assembly.
- b. Nominated individuals not gathering majority support from the Youth General Assembly will be rejected. The others will assume their positions on the WFDYS. All nominations made after the original deadline must be submitted 24 hours before the Youth General Assembly commences.
- c. After the election of members nominated by YOM and/or OM, nominations for members of the WFDYS are accepted from the floor during the Youth General Assembly only if there are not enough candidates nominated via the normal channels and after all of the following conditions have been met:
  - I. Each individual nomination must be approved by a majority vote of the Youth General Assembly before being approved to stand as a candidate.
  - II. The individual nominated must present proper documentation as outlined above, including a form signifying the nomination meets with the approval of the individual's YOM or OM.
  - III. If nominations from the floor exceed the number of vacant seats, elections will be held to choose from among those nominated from the floor only.
  - IV. In the event of an insufficient number of candidates to the WFDYS, members of the newly-elected term of the WFDYS will have a mandate, after the Youth Assembly, to appoint individuals to fill the vacant seats.



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*All appointments must follow the criteria in Section 5.1, including nomination by a YOM or OM.*

### 5.3. ELECTIONS

- a. Elections shall be held as the last item on the agenda of the Youth General Assembly.
- b. Separate votes shall be held for the following positions:
  - President
  - Vice-President
  - Secretary
  - Four (4) Members
- c. Each delegation will cast one vote for each of the following positions: President, Vice-President and Secretary.
- d. Each delegation will select four individuals for the four member positions.
- e. An individual nominated for more than one position is understood to take the highest position they are elected to, withdrawing from votes for the lower positions.
- f. The individual receiving a simple majority of votes for President, Vice-President and Secretary wins.
- g. The four individuals receiving the highest number of votes for Members win.
- h. In the event of a tie in the vote for President, Vice-President, and Secretary or the last remaining WFDYS member position(s), a revote will be taken on the candidates in question.
- i. The office of treasurer will be chosen internally by and from among the WFDYS at the first meeting of the newly elected WFDYS.

### 5.4. MEETINGS

- a. WFDYS meetings shall be held at least once per calendar year; WFDYS must have their meeting during WFD camps. Meeting may be held more often on the discretion of the President of the WFDYS.
- b. WFDYS president must meet once a year with the WFD Contact person to make sure that WFDYS actions are following WFD philosophy.
- c. Youth Regional Secretariats have the right to attend all WFDYS Board Meetings. They have the right of voice but no vote. The Youth Regional Secretariats are responsible for their transportation, accommodation, and meal costs.



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- d. WFDYS board shall make a summary of meeting minutes after every board meeting. The summary shall be sent to YOMs within a month after the meeting both in written English and International Sign.

### **5.5. FUNCTIONS**

Definition: The WFDYS shall follow and implement the Action Plan and other proposals approved by the Youth Assembly. The WFD Board must first approve any activities undertaken by the WFDYS falling outside the mandates given by the Youth General Assembly. The WFDYS will develop and maintain camp guidelines.

- a. President: shall preside over meetings of both the Youth General Assembly and the WFDYS. The president shall represent the WFDYS and may with the concurrence of the WFDYS or WFD Board appoint a person to represent the WFDYS at international or national meetings. The President should also attend all WFD Board meetings as an observant, with voting privileges, if any and according to the WFD statutes.
- b. Vice-President: shall preside over meetings of the Youth General Assembly and the WFDYS whenever the President is unable to attend.
- c. Secretary: shall write the meeting minutes of WFDYS meetings including Youth General Assembly minutes.
- d. The four Members shall perform various duties as assigned by the WFDYS. At all international meetings and conferences the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Members shall be the official representatives of the WFDYS. Members of the WFDYS shall have no voting privileges at meetings of the Youth General Assembly. WFDYS members may not in any case vote during elections.
- e. The Treasurer shall receive regular financial updates from the General Secretary and keep the WFDYS and the Youth General Assembly informed of the financial status of the WFDYS.

### **5.6. MEMBER REPLACEMENTS**

- a. In the event of a WFDYS member position becoming vacant before the end of a WFDYS term, the WFDYS will select an individual (meeting all nomination guidelines as outlined in Section 5.1) to serve out the remainder of that person's term.
- b. In the event of the departure of the WFDYS president, the vice president will ascend to the position of president. A new vice president will be chosen by a vote of the WFDYS from among the remaining members, including the treasurer and secretary. A new member will then be elected under item a.
- c. In the event of the office of vice-president becoming vacant, an internal election will be held among the remaining WFDYS members for the position. All WFDYS members, including the President, are eligible to vote in this election.





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- d. In the event of departure of the Secretary, the WFDYS will select one among the remaining WFDYS members.
- e. Selection of new members will follow selection guidelines outlined in Section 5.1.

### 5.7. TRANSITION

- a. The first meeting of the newly elected WFDYS should take place during the WFD World Congress, or immediately afterwards, if at all possible. *The Past President shall attend the first meeting of the new WFDYS, to orient the new WFDYS.*
- b. All official documents of the previous WFDYS term will be on file in the WFD Secretariat, to be given to the President and members of the new WFDYS.

### 5.8. YOUTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES

- a. Shall be sent to all OM and YOM within three months of the Youth General Assembly.

### 5.9. YOUTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY WORKSHOP

- a. A Youth General Assembly workshop shall be provided before the Youth Assembly takes place. At the workshop there will be a review of all the issues relating to the agenda of the Youth General Assembly.

## ARTICLE 6 - CAMPS

### 6.1. CAMP GUIDELINES

- a. Host Countries must follow specific Camp Guidelines (Children, Junior Youth and Youth). Please see separate Camp Guidelines for details. Camp guidelines are developed and updated by WFDYS from time to time.
- b. Bid guidelines for the hosting of camps are included in the Camp Guidelines.

### 6.2. WFDYS YOUTH CAMP

- a. Must be held every 4 years, in the same country as WFD congress, host country is responsible for the camp.
- b. Participants of the camp must be between ages 18-30 on the FIRST day of the camp.
- c. Host countries must be WFD YOM and/or OM.
- d. Host countries should provide free registration for Camp Participants to the WFD World Congress, which takes place after the WFD Youth Camp.



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### **6.3. WFDYS JUNIOR YOUTH CAMP**

- a. Must be held every 4 years, host country will be elected at the Youth Assembly.
- b. Participants of the camp must be between ages 13-17 on the first day of the camp.
- c. All YOM and/or OM must submit bids to host a Camp in accordance with the WFDYS Camp Guidelines.

### **6.4. WFDYS CHILDREN'S CAMP**

- a. Must be held every 4 years, host country will be elected at the Youth Assembly.
- b. Participants of the camp must be between ages 9-12 on the first day of the camp.
- c. All YOM and/or OM must submit bids to host a Camp in accordance with the WFDYS Camp Guidelines.