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# **Document 12**



## **Suspension and Termination of WOSM Membership**



**36th  
World Scout  
Conference**

**36e Conférence  
Mondiale  
du Scoutisme**

**H E L L A S    2 0 0 2**

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# **SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION OF WOSM MEMBERSHIP**

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## SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION OF WOSM MEMBERSHIP

### INTRODUCTION

### 1. NATIONAL SCOUT ORGANIZATIONS WHICH NO LONGER COMPLY WITH ONE OR MORE OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR WOSM MEMBERSHIP

#### 1.1 Non-adherence to the Constitution of the Organization and non- functioning as a democratic National Scout Movement

Article VII, paragraph 1 of the Constitution of the World Organization of the Scout Movement states that

*“1. The World Committee may provisionally suspend the membership of any National Scout Organization which, in its opinion, no longer fulfils the requirements for membership. If the World Committee maintains its suspension, the World Conference at its next meeting shall hear the report of the World Committee and invite the suspended Organization to make its written or oral comments. The World Conference has the broadest power to then decide on an appropriate course of action; if its decision is to expel the Organization, such decision requires a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.”*

The requirements for WOSM membership are stated in Article V, paragraph 3 of the Constitution of WOSM (see *Annex 1*).

The World Scout Committee wishes to draw the attention of the World Scout Conference to the situation of a number of Member Organizations which no longer comply with one or more of the requirements for membership.

These are the National Scout Organizations that, following so far unsuccessful attempts to solve the problems, have led the World Scout Committee to apply the provisions of Article VII, paragraph 1 of the Constitution of WOSM quoted above.

It should be noted that, while some of the National Scout Organizations concerned do not comply with more than one of the requirements for WOSM membership, they are listed below under the main requirement the non-fulfilment of which has led the World Scout Committee to suspend the National Organization.

This is the case of **BESA SKAUT ALBANIA**, the National Scout Organization of Albania.

In May 2001, the World Scout Bureau issued the following Circular 18/2001 to all National Scout Organizations:

BESA SKAUT ALBANIA,  
PROVISIONAL SUSPENSION OF MEMBERSHIP OF WOSM.

*At its meeting in Geneva on 28-29 April, the World Committee received a report from the Chairman of the European Scout Region describing internal problems within Besa Skaut Albania, the National Scout Organization of Albania.*

*Besa Skau Albania became a Member Organization of WOSM in 1999, following extensive visits and support from the European Region over some eight years. This support included significant financial contributions from Regional funds.*

*According to the report, which was based largely on a field visit to Albania by the Regional Chairman and European Regional Office staff in December 2000, Besa Skaut Albania is not fulfilling its obligations as a Member of WOSM.*

*Specific concerns include the lack of verifiable membership figures, disintegration of the association as local groups leave, absence of audited financial reports, personality conflicts and lack of valid, effective democratic decision-making processes. For example, the leadership of the Organization has split into two groups (one led by the Chairman of the Executive Committee, the other by the International Commissioner) who both claim to represent the NSO.*

*In light of the report and of other correspondence received, the World Scout Committee decided to provisionally suspend Besa Skaut Albania's membership of WOSM with immediate effect until a satisfactory report on the state of the Organization is received from the European Scout Committee... The suspension is effective until such time as the representativity of the leadership of the Organization is confirmed in a democratic fashion under the supervision of the European Scout Committee...*

At this time, Besa Skaut Albania remains suspended from membership of WOSM. No substantive changes have yet been achieved in bringing the Association into line with the requirements of the WOSM Constitution. However, the European Scout Committee and the European Regional Office continue to work closely with the Chairman of the Association to develop remedies to the problems being faced.

At its meeting on Sunday 14 July, the World Scout Committee will receive a full report on the latest developments, and will propose to the World Scout Conference an appropriate course of action in accordance with Article VII, 1 of the WOSM Constitution.

#### **This is also the case of **BELARUSIAN NATIONAL SCOUT ORGANIZATION****

At its meeting on 16-18 March 2002, the World Scout Committee received a report from the Chairman of the Constitutions Committee on the situation of the Belarusian National Scout Organization.

Complaints had been received from unrecognised groups within the country about the conduct of the recognised NSO, which was facing significant problems. The Chairman of the Constitutions Committee had visited the association, together with the Regional Chairman and Regional Director, and had prepared a detailed report with a number of specific recommendations.

In light of the report, the World Scout Committee decided that the Belarusian National Scout Organization, which was already suspended for non-payment of fees, should remain suspended until it held a legitimate General Assembly and got its accounts independently audited.

A letter was sent to the President of the NSO on 21 May 2002, informing him of this decision, and outlining the remedial steps required for the suspension to be lifted. A copy of the conclusions of the report of the visit by the Chairman of the Constitutions Committee was also provided.

At its meeting on Sunday 14 July, the World Scout Committee will receive a report on the latest developments, and will propose to the World Scout Conference an appropriate course of action in accordance with Article VII, 1 of the WOSM Constitution.

## **1.2 Non-payment of registration fees**

In July 1996, the Oslo World Scout Conference unanimously adopted a new registration fee system designed to distribute the burden of fees in a more equitable manner than the system used to calculate annual fees until 1995-1996, i.e. the year of that Conference. This system was confirmed at the 1999 Durban World Scout Conference.

### **1.2.1. Policy on the payment of the registration fees**

The World Scout Committee considered, not only in fairness to all but also because annual registration fees constitute by far the largest part of the World Scout Bureau's operational income, that an enforcement policy to ensure that all WOSM Member Organizations pay their fees in full and on time was a necessary complement to the new fee system. This policy was discussed and adopted by the World Scout Committee during its meeting held in November 1996. It was circulated to all National Scout Organizations with World Scout Bureau's Circular N° 30/1996 of December 1996.

This policy is attached as *Annex 2* and *Annex 3*.

### **1.2.2 What is the situation today?**

Today, at the time of writing this document, only **GUIAS Y SCOUTS DE CHILE**, the National Scout Organization of Chile, will, *unless they have cleared their situation before then*, find itself in a situation of provisional suspension with full application of the sanctions at the opening of the World Scout Conference.

## **2. WHAT IS THE NEXT COURSE OF ACTION?**

At this stage it is important to note that:

- the state of provisional suspension is not a state in which a National Scout Organization can remain for an unlimited period of time,
- the next logical step following the state of provisional suspension should normally be termination of membership with the Movement,
- in application of the provisions of the policy on payment of registration fees, Member Organizations that have been provisionally suspended with *full* application of the sanctions are not allowed to attend any world and/or regional event held under the auspices of WOSM,
- according to Article VII, paragraph 1 of the WOSM Constitution, the situation of a National Scout Organization provisionally suspended must be reported upon by the World Scout Committee at the first meeting of the World Scout Conference following that suspension, at which meeting the suspended Member Organization shall be invited to make its written or oral comments.

Consequently, and in order to make sure that Member Organizations concerned can apply their constitutional right to make written or oral comments to the World Scout Conference, the World Scout Committee has decided that it shall invite the Member Organizations concerned to the Thessaloniki Conference *for the sole purpose of presenting their case to the Conference*, it being understood that, unless otherwise decided by the Conference, the Member Organizations concerned shall not be authorized to attend the rest of the World Scout Conference. An invitation to this effect will be sent to each of the three suspended National Scout Organizations, Albania, Belarus and Chile.

The World Scout Committee will present its formal report on suspended Member Organizations to the World Scout Conference at its very first session on Monday afternoon, 15 July 2002. This report may be followed by comments presented orally or in written form by each of the Member Organizations concerned.

After the World Scout Committee has presented its report, and the National Scout Organizations concerned have (or, if they choose, have not) presented their comments, orally or in written form, the World Scout Conference has the broadest powers to then decide on an appropriate course of action.

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*Extract from the Constitution of the World Organization of the Scout Movement*

**“ARTICLE V**

**Requirements**

- “1. *Membership in the World Organization is open to all National Scout Organizations which fulfil the requirements for membership. Authority to confer such membership is vested in the World Conference.*
2. *Only one National Scout Organization from any one country can be recognized for membership in the World Organization. A National Scout Organization may consist of more than one Scout Association participating in a Federation based on the common Scout purpose. It is the responsibility of each Federation to ensure that all its constituent Associations meet the requirements of this Constitution.*
3. *Membership of a National Scout Organization in the World Organization requires:*
  - (a) *Establishment of its legal entity and evidence of its national operation.*
  - (b) *Adoption of and sustained adherence to the purpose, principles and method as laid down by Chapter I of this Constitution.*
  - (c) *Enrolment to be open to all who agree to conform with the purpose, principles and method of the Movement.*
  - (d) *Maintenance of the Organization as an independent, non-political, voluntary movement of probity and effectiveness.*
  - (e) *Registration with the World Bureau.*
  - (f) *Regular payment of its registration fees.*
  - (g) *Notification to the World Bureau of any intended changes to its National Scout Constitution relating to matters covered by Chapters I, II and III of this Constitution, before these are finally ratified.*
  - (h) *Submission of an annual report to the World Bureau.”*

## World Scout Committee

### **Policy Concerning Payment of Registration Fees adopted by the World Scout Committee at its meeting held on 9-10 November 1996 in Kandersteg, Switzerland**

Considering that:

- a new registration fee system was unanimously adopted at the 34th World Scout Conference in Oslo, in July 1996,
- the new registration fee system is designed to distribute the burden of fees in the most equitable manner possible, taking into account the size and means of all WOSM Member Organizations,
- a special programme of financial assistance was offered to WOSM Member Organizations to encourage and enable full payment of fee arrears prior to the Oslo Conference,
- regular payment of registration fees is a condition of membership under the WOSM Constitution, Article V. 3(f),
- Scouts Honour and fairness to all require that there be an enforcement policy which will encourage full and timely payment of fees by all WOSM Member Organizations,

the World Scout Committee therefore adopts the following policy:

1. Registration fees are due when invoiced by the World Scout Bureau in October of each year. They become past-due 60 days after the date of the invoice of the annual registration fee, and become arrears (delinquent) on 1st October of the following year.
2. As from 1st October 1997, Member Organizations who pay in full their registration fees for the new budgetary year (1 October to 30 September) within 60 days of invoice date, may claim a discount of 2%.
3. With respect to arrears, the Committee will consider exercising its constitutional authority to suspend membership provisionally, due to a Member Organization's failure to fulfill its obligations. This policy shall not bind the Committee in advance to any particular action with respect to a delinquent Member Organization. **However, it is the sense of the Committee that, in principle, Member Organizations with arrears should be provisionally suspended from WOSM membership.** (1)
4. This policy shall be communicated to all Member Organizations upon its adoption and at least annually thereafter.

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*(1) **Note:** The WOSM Constitution provides that the case of a Member Organization provisionally suspended by the World Scout Committee shall be reviewed by the next ensuing World Scout Conference, which has the broadest authority to decide on an appropriate course of action, including expulsion.*

## World Scout Committee

### Provisional Suspension of Membership

The WOSM Constitution, Article VII, §1, gives to the World Scout Committee the authority to provisionally suspend the membership of a Member Organization which, in the Committee's opinion, no longer fulfills the requirements of membership, including, *inter alia*, the requirement to pay registration fees regularly. If the Committee acts to provisionally suspend a Member Organization and does not subsequently rescind the action, the case will be reviewed by the next ensuing World Scout Conference, which has the broadest authority to decide on an appropriate course of action, including expulsion.

While a provisional suspension is in effect, the suspended Member Organization will lose the rights and privileges of WOSM membership, including:

- the right to receive the services and publications of the World Scout Bureau.
- the right to participate in seminars, training sessions, meetings and other activities organized by the World Scout Bureau. (The suspended Member Organization is constitutionally entitled to make written or oral comments at the next World Scout Conference.)
- the right to have proposals for projects or other financial support reviewed and endorsed by the World Scout Bureau.
- the right to have youth members participate in world or regional events under the auspices of WOSM.
- the right to participate and vote in Regional Scout Conferences and other regional events, insofar as the Constitution of a Regional Scout Organization requires its members to be members in good standing of WOSM.
- the right to have individual members of the suspended Member Organization join committees or stand for election in any organs of WOSM.

**The loss of the above rights will not excuse the Member Organization from the legal and moral obligation to pay all arrears (delinquent registration fees) owed at the time of provisional suspension.** \_\_\_\_\_

*Throughout this note, the term "Member Organizations" refers to both national Scout Organizations which are a single Scout Association as well as National Scout organizations which are a Federation of several Scout Associations.*

*The attention of Federations is drawn to the fact that they are responsible for ensuring that the totality of the Scout Associations comprising them fulfil their financial obligations, otherwise it is the entire Federation which will be subjected to the terms of the policy stated above.*

*It is therefore highly recommended that payments of fees continue to be made directly by the Federations.*