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CIRCULAR N° 27/2003

To: International Commissioners

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Policy on payment of registration fees - Provisional suspension of Membership

Dear Colleague,

1. By our Circular N° 26/2002 I informed you of the decision taken by the World Scout Committee at its October 2002 meeting concerning the above subject, i.e.:
 - Member Organizations which have registration fee arrears at the opening of any World Scout Bureau fiscal year (1 October), will be **automatically** suspended from membership with WOSM with **partial** application of the sanctions (see § 2 below for consequences), unless already previously suspended. If such is the case, Member Organizations previously suspended with **partial** application of the sanctions will see their provisional suspension transformed into provisional suspension with **full** application of the sanctions.
 - Member Organizations already suspended with **full** application of the sanctions, will see their provisional suspension **confirmed**.
2. In application of the above decision, the following 33 Member Organizations have seen their membership with WOSM provisionally suspended with **partial** application of the sanctions as from 1 October 2003:

**Algeria – Argentina – Belgium – Bosnia -Herzegovina – Bulgaria – Burkina Faso
Chad - Chile – Colombia – Comoros – Costa Rica – Dominican Rep. – Ecuador – El
Salvador – France – Georgia – Haiti – Hungary – Liberia – Madagascar - Maldives –
Mauritania – Nigeria – Pakistan - Peru - Poland – Romania – Serbia and
Montenegro – Sierra Leone – Spain – Switzerland – Venezuela - Yemen.**

The immediate practical consequences of this situation for the NSOs concerned are the loss of:

- voting rights at World and/or Regional events organized under the auspices of WOSM,
- the right for individuals of the suspended Member Organization to join committees or stand for election in any organs of WOSM,

until and unless their arrears are cleared.

3. Also in application of the above decision, the following 7 Member Organizations have seen their provisional suspension with **full** application of the sanctions **confirmed**:

Albania (*) – Belarus (*) – Benin – Israel – Russia – Swaziland - Uruguay.

(*) for reasons other than non-payment of fees.

The consequences of provisional suspension of membership with **full** application of the sanctions can be read from the **attached** annex.

4. Bearing in mind that certain suspended Member Organizations may have been victim of circumstances beyond their control, which make it impossible for them to pay their fees, the World Scout Committee has requested the Secretary General and the World Scout Bureau to examine means and ways to assist these Member Organizations in paying their arrears... provided these Organizations ask us to do so and are ready to share the necessary efforts to find a solution to their situation.

In this spirit, I am asking any Member Organization wishing to help one or several of the suspended Member Organizations to recover their full rights (through any possible scheme: direct payment of fees, twinning of a particular Organization, etc.), to contact me.

Yours in Scouting,



Jacques Moreillon
Secretary General

Enclosure: A/S

JM/LP/cf/circ

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.

(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.

**Decision taken by the World Scout Committee at its meeting
held on 12-13 October 2002 in Geneva, Switzerland
Principle of automatic application of the
policy concerning payment of registration fees – provisional suspension of membership**

Decision:

- Member Organizations which have registration fee arrears at the opening of any World Scout Bureau fiscal year (1 October), will be **automatically** suspended from membership with WOSM with **partial** application of the sanctions, unless already previously suspended. If such is the case, Member Organizations previously suspended with **partial** application of the sanctions will see their provisional suspension transformed into provisional suspension with **full** application of the sanctions.
- Member Organizations already suspended with **full** application of the sanctions, will see their provisional suspension **confirmed**.
- Member Organizations which will not have cleared their registration fee arrears by the date of the Spring meeting (March or April in any year) of the World Scout Committee, will **automatically** see their provisional suspension with **partial** application of the sanctions transformed into provisional suspension with **full** application of the sanctions.

**Décision prise par le Comité Mondial du Scoutisme lors de sa réunion
des 12-13 octobre 2002 à Genève, Suisse
Principe d'application automatique des
mesures relatives au paiement des cotisations –
suspension provisoire de la qualité de membre**

Décision:

- les Organisations Membres qui auront des arriérés de cotisations à la date d'ouverture de toute année fiscale du Bureau Mondial du Scoutisme (1er octobre), seront **automatiquement** suspendues de la qualité de membre de l'OMMS avec application **partielle** des sanctions, sauf si elles ont déjà été suspendues antérieurement. Si tel est le cas, les Organisations Membres provisoirement suspendues avec application **partielle** des sanctions, verront leur suspension provisoire transformée en une suspension provisoire avec **pleine** application des sanctions,
- les Organisations Membres déjà suspendues avec **pleine** application des sanctions, verront leur suspension provisoire **confirmée**,
- les Organisations Membres qui n'auront pas réglé leurs arriérés de cotisations à la date de la réunion de printemps du Comité Mondial du Scoutisme (mars ou avril de chaque année), verront leur suspension provisoire avec application **partielle** des sanctions **automatiquement** transformée en une suspension provisoire avec **pleine** application des sanctions.