CONSTITUTION

of

THE INTERNATIONAL PARA-STANDING TENNIS ASSOCIATION ("IPSTA")

Founding Constitution

Adopted by the Board – 7 SEPTEMBER 2026

PART I – PRELIMINARY

1. Name

1.1 The name of the organisation is "The International Para-Standing Tennis Association" ("**IPSTA**" or the "**Association**").

1.2 IPSTA may also trade under such other names as the Board approves from time to time, provided any such name is used consistently with the objects and Principles of the Association.

2. Interpretation and Definitions

2.1 The official language of the Association is English. Documents, decisions and Regulations of IPSTA shall be authoritative in their English version. A speaker at any meeting may use another language provided that interpretation into English is arranged, and notice given to the Chair in advance, at the speaker's own cost.

2.2 In this Constitution, unless the context otherwise requires, the following terms have the following meanings:

Association / IPSTA the International Para-Standing Tennis Association.

Board the Board of Directors of IPSTA, being the body responsible for the administration, management and governance of IPSTA between meetings of Congress, as further described in Article 8.

Board Observer a non-voting member of the Board appointed under Article 8.2.1(c).

Code the UK Code for Sports Governance published by Sport England and UK Sport (as amended or replaced from time to time), which IPSTA has had regard to in preparing this Constitution and intends to continue to have regard to as it grows. Appendix 1 sets out how this Constitution reflects the Code.

Congress the general meeting of Members of IPSTA, being (once established in accordance with Article 7) the supreme decision-making body of IPSTA.

Director a member of the Board, including the Officers.

Financial Year the period from 1 January to 31 December in each year.

Governance Code the code of conduct adopted by the Board under Article 8.11, applicable to Officers, Directors, members of Sub-Committees, Committees, Regional Leads and employees.

Independent Non-Executive Director a Director who satisfies the criteria of independence set out in Article 8.3.2.

National Association ("NA") the organisation recognised by IPSTA, in accordance with Article 4, as the sole body governing Para-Standing Tennis within a given country or territory.

Officer the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer or Legal Director of IPSTA.

Principles the fundamental values and ethical standards that guide IPSTA's activities, including integrity, fairness, inclusivity, diversity, transparency, safeguarding, and good governance in sport.

Region / Regional Lead a regional structure of IPSTA established under Article 11.

Regulations the rules made by IPSTA under Article 3.3, including the Official Para-Standing Tennis Rules, the Player Classification Manual, equipment and facility specifications.

Secretary General the chief executive of IPSTA appointed under Article 9.

Sub-Committee a permanent sub-committee of the Board established under Article 10.

2.3 Headings are for convenience only and do not affect interpretation. Words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa, and words importing one gender include all genders.

3. Legal Status, Objects and Principles

3.1 IPSTA is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. IPSTA does not pursue any objective for private gain; it pursues solely and directly objects of general interest for the benefit of Para-Standing Tennis, in accordance with the laws of its place of incorporation.

3.2 The financial resources of IPSTA may be used only in pursuit of the objects set out in this Constitution. Any compensation or reimbursement of expenses paid to an individual must be appropriate, justified and connected to those objects.

3.3 IPSTA is the competent authority for men's and women's Para-Standing Tennis worldwide. The objects of IPSTA are to:

(a) promote and develop Para-Standing Tennis throughout the world, and encourage the recruitment of new members;

(b) publish, promote and uphold this Constitution and the Principles;

(c) make, amend and enforce Regulations governing Para-Standing Tennis, including the Official Para-Standing Tennis Rules, the Player Classification Manual, and specifications for equipment and facilities;

(d) control and govern the licensing of classifiers and commissioners, and maintain player classification records and player identification;

(e) organise, conduct and present IPSTA competitions to a high standard, and set the standards expected of other international events;

(f) seek the inclusion of Para-Standing Tennis within national tennis federations, the Paralympic Games and Grand Slam events;

(g) uphold high standards of integrity, transparency, safeguarding and ethical conduct, including compliance with the applicable World Anti-Doping Code and cooperation with the International Tennis Integrity Agency;

(h) engage in commercial and promotional activity that benefits Para-Standing Tennis and supports the sustainable development of IPSTA; and

(i) take such other action as may be necessary to advance the interests of Para-Standing Tennis internationally.

3.4 In carrying out its objects, IPSTA will have regard to: internationally recognised human rights; the principles of Olympic and Paralympic sport; political neutrality; the autonomy of sporting organisations; diversity, equity and inclusion; safeguarding and the welfare of participants; and the social and environmental impact of its decisions.

PART II – MEMBERSHIP

4. Categories of Membership

4.1 Membership of IPSTA consists of:

(a) Full Members: NAs admitted to membership under Article 5, who alone have voting rights at Congress;

(b) Associate Members: organisations not yet sufficiently developed for Full Membership, which the Board may recognise for Associate Membership without voting rights, in order to support their development towards Full Membership.

4.2 Membership is open, on an inclusive and accessible basis, to any organisation recognised nationally as controlling Para-Standing Tennis within the boundaries of a given country or territory. Only one NA may be recognised in respect of each country or territory. Where Para-Standing Tennis in a country is organised as a section of a body responsible for other sports, only that section shall be recognised as the NA.

4.3 An NA affiliated to IPSTA is automatically a member of the Regional Lead for its country or territory (Article 11), and represents Para-Standing Tennis for men, women, referees, classifiers, coaches and administrators within its jurisdiction. An NA may only carry out international activity with the permission of IPSTA.

4.4 NAs must ensure their own governing documents are consistent with this Constitution and the Regulations, and must comply with IPSTA's decisions and Regulations.

5. Admission, Suspension, Expulsion and Resignation

Admission

5.1 An organisation seeking to become an NA must apply to the Board in the form required by the Internal Regulations. Applying constitutes agreement to abide by this Constitution and the Regulations. The Board will determine whether the applicant represents the Para-Standing Tennis community in its country or territory and otherwise meets the requirements for membership, and may grant provisional membership (with all rights save voting rights) pending ratification by Congress.

Succession

5.2 If an NA is dissolved under its own governing documents, any new NA applying for membership must first discharge any outstanding financial obligations owed by the previous NA to IPSTA, unless the Board or Congress exceptionally waives this requirement.

Suspension or expulsion

5.3 The Board may suspend or expel a NA that breaches this Constitution or the Regulations, having regard to matters including the length and level of the NA's engagement with IPSTA, its payment of fees, and the international standing of Para-Standing Tennis in its territory. Before doing so, the Board must give the NA written notice of the reasons for the proposed action and a reasonable opportunity, of not less than 14 days, to respond in writing or in person. Any such decision to suspend or expel must be notified in writing, setting out the reasons in detail. The NA may appeal to the Appeals Committee within two months of that notice; an appeal does not suspend the Board's decision pending its outcome. Any decision by the Board

or the Appeals Committee to suspend or expel will be on an interim basis. Congress will consider, and confirm or set aside any such suspension or expulsion of any NA at its next meeting. Any such decision of Congress will be final.

5.4 In the event of the suspension or expulsion of an NA (interim or otherwise), the participation at IPSTA sanctioned events of players from the suspended or expelled NA will be at the discretion of the Board.

Non-payment of fees

5.5 Following a formal reminder, an NA that has not paid its fees may be suspended by the Board and will lose its rights as an NA (including voting rights) until the fees are paid.

Effect of suspension

5.6 A suspended NA may not vote at Congress or within its Regional Lead, and, subject only to the discretion afforded to the Board pursuant to clause 5.4, its players, referees, classifiers and administrators may not participate in official IPSTA activities or competitions, until the suspension is lifted.

Resignation

5.7 An NA may resign from membership at any time by written notice to the Board. Resignation takes effect at the end of the Financial Year in which notice is given, provided all outstanding financial obligations have been settled.

PART III – GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

6. Structure of IPSTA

6.1 The bodies of IPSTA are:

- **(a)** Congress (Article 7) – the general meeting of Members;
- **(b)** the Board (Article 8);
- **(c)** the Secretariat, led by the Secretary General (Article 9);
- **(d)** the Sub-Committees (Article 10);
- **(e)** the Regional Leads and their Councils (Article 11);
- **(f)** such Committees as the Board establishes, including the Appeals Committee (Article 12.2); and
- **(g)** the Players' Commission, once established (Article 13).

6.2 The Board may establish, vary or dissolve Sub-Committees, Committees and other working groups as it considers appropriate to IPSTA's size and stage of development. Any such body is temporary in nature unless and until Congress confers permanent status on it.

7. Congress

Establishment

7.1 Congress is the collective voice of Para-Standing Tennis worldwide and, once established under this Article, has final authority over IPSTA's activities within the scope of this Constitution. IPSTA intends to convene its first Congress once it has at least 10 NAs in membership and no later than 2028. Until the first Congress is convened, the functions of Congress described in this Article are exercised by the Board, which will:

- **(a)** act as trustee for the future Congress, taking decisions in the best interests of the wider Para-Standing Tennis community and not only IPSTA's own convenience;
- **(b)** consult NAs on a proportionate basis on matters that would ordinarily fall to Congress (such as material changes to this Constitution, admission or exclusion of NAs, and the annual accounts); and
- **(c)** report to NAs, at least annually, on progress towards convening the first Congress.

Composition

7.2 Once established, Congress consists of: (a) one delegate from each non-suspended NA; (b) the President; and (c) the members of the Board.

Functions

7.3 Congress has the power to: approve its agenda; adopt and amend this Constitution (Article 18); elect the President and other elected Directors; approve the Board's annual report, budget and financial statements; ratify decisions on the admission, suspension or exclusion of NAs; ratify material changes to the Internal Regulations and the Official Para-Standing Tennis Rules; ratify decisions on relationships with other international federations or the International Paralympic Committee; and resolve to dissolve IPSTA (Article 20).

Meetings

7.4 An ordinary Congress will, in principle, be held every two years, where practicable alongside the World Championship. An extraordinary Congress may be called by the Board or on the written request of at least one-fifth of NAs. Meetings may be held in person, virtually or in hybrid format, as the Board considers will maximise participation and accessibility. Not less than 21 days' written notice of a Congress will be given to NAs, together with the agenda.

Voting

7.5 Each non-suspended NA has one vote, exercised by an accredited delegate; voting by proxy is not permitted. The President chairs Congress and does not vote except to give a casting vote in the event of a tie (other than in Board elections). Save where this Constitution requires a higher threshold, decisions are taken by a simple majority of NAs present and entitled to vote. A quorum for any Congress is 50% of NAs entitled to attend and vote.

8. The Board

8.1 Role of the Board

8.1.1 The Board is IPSTA's ultimate decision-making body and exercises all powers of the Association, save for matters reserved to Congress once established. The Board is responsible for setting IPSTA's strategy and is collectively accountable for its long-term success. The Board maintains a clear division between its own oversight role and the operational role of the Secretariat.

8.1.2 The Board's functions include, in particular, to:

(a) supervise the practice of Para-Standing Tennis worldwide and the management of the Secretariat;

(b) decide on the admission, suspension and exclusion of NAs, subject to ratification by Congress once established;

(c) adopt, and propose amendments to, the Official Para-Standing Tennis Rules, the Player Classification Manual and the Internal Regulations, subject to ratification by Congress where this Constitution so requires;

(d) approve the annual budget and financial statements, monitor IPSTA's financial position, and oversee risk management and internal controls (see Part IV);

(e) appoint the Secretary General and oversee the Secretariat;

(f) establish, vary and dissolve Sub-Committees and Committees, and appoint and remove their members;

(g) set out, promote and support the implementation of minimum good governance standards throughout IPSTA's structures, including its Regional Leads; and

(h) report on its activities and financial position to NAs at least annually, and to Congress once established.

8.2 Composition of the Board

8.2.1 The Board consists of:

(a) the Officers: the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Legal Director;

(b) up to seven further Directors, of whom at least two shall, once recruited, be Independent Non-Executive Directors (Article 8.3); and

(c) up to three Board Observers, who attend and may participate in Board meetings but do not vote and are not counted for the purposes of Article 8.2.2.

8.2.2 The Board shall not exceed twelve voting Directors. This reflects the maximum Board size recommended by the Code; the Board will keep the case for any larger Board under review and would only propose to exceed this number having taken appropriate governance advice.

8.2.3 The Board shall maintain and keep up to date a skills, experience, diversity and independence matrix for the Board, and shall use it, together with IPSTA's Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan (Article 8.10), to inform recruitment and succession planning under Article 8.4.

8.2.4 Once IPSTA's Congress has been established in accordance with Article 7.1, no individual may hold more than one position on the Board at any time. If a member of IPSTA's executive staff (for example the Secretary General) is appointed to the Board, this may only be on an ex officio basis for so long as they hold that office.

8.3 Independent Non-Executive Directors

8.3.1 IPSTA will work towards at least 25% of the voting Board being Independent Non-Executive Directors ("**INED**"), in line with the Code. Given IPSTA's early stage of development, this Constitution allows the Board to build up to this position over time (see Article 21).

8.3.2 An INED is "independent" if they are free of any close connection to IPSTA or an NA that could reasonably be seen to affect their judgement, including that they are not, and have not within the preceding four years been, an employee of IPSTA or an officer of an NA, and do not have close family ties to another Director or senior employee of IPSTA.

8.3.3 Independent Non-Executive Directors are appointed through an open, publicly advertised recruitment process led by the President (or, once established, the Nominations Committee – Article 8.9), on the recommendation of the Board.

8.4 Board Recruitment and Elections

8.4.1 Until Congress is established, vacancies among the elected Directors are filled by the Board, acting by majority decision, following a documented, transparent process that has regard to the skills matrix and the Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan. Following the establishment of Congress, Officers and other elected Directors are elected by Congress in accordance with the election procedure set out in the Internal Regulations, which will address nominations, ballots, casting votes and tie-breaks consistently with the principles in this Article.

8.4.2 No individual may be appointed as a Director until they have provided a declaration of good character and a written commitment to act with integrity and in accordance with the Governance Code.

8.4.3 On appointment, each Director receives a written statement of their responsibilities and a tailored induction covering IPSTA's objects, structure, finances, key policies (including safeguarding, diversity and inclusion, and conflicts of interest), and this Constitution.

8.4.4 At no time may more than two Directors nominated by, or otherwise closely connected with, the same NA serve on the Board at the same time (Board Observers and any ex officio Regional Lead representatives are not counted for this purpose).

8.5 Term of Office

8.5.1 Directors serve for a term of four years and may serve up to two consecutive terms (a maximum of eight years' continuous service), save that:

- **(a)** a Director appointed as President following a period of service as a Director may serve a further term as President, subject to a maximum of twelve years' continuous service on the Board in total;
- **(b)** a Director appointed on an ex officio basis (for example, a Regional Lead President) may serve for so long as they hold that other office; and
- **(c)** in exceptional circumstances, to support succession planning, the Board may extend a Director's term by up to one further year, with reasons recorded and communicated to NAs.

8.5.2 A Director who has served the maximum term under Article 8.5.1 must stand down for at least four years before being eligible to serve again.

8.5.3 The Board may fill a casual vacancy on the Board to serve until the next scheduled election.

8.6 Chair and Division of Roles

8.6.1 The President chairs the Board and is responsible for its leadership, including setting the agenda, ensuring Directors receive timely and clear information, promoting open and constructive debate, and ensuring the Board's decisions are implemented.

8.6.2 The roles of President and Secretary General (Article 9) must not be held by the same individual, and the division between them must be recorded in writing and agreed by the Board.

8.6.3 The Vice-President deputises for the President as required and undertakes such other functions as the Board decides.

8.7 Officers' Responsibilities

8.7.1 Secretary - coordinates and documents Board meetings; oversees compliance with this Constitution, applicable law and IPSTA's governing documents; leads (with the Legal Director) the development of governance documents; and is the primary point of contact for Board communications and for onboarding new Directors.

8.7.2 Treasurer - supervises IPSTA's finances in accordance with Part IV of this Constitution, oversees preparation of budgets, financial statements and audits, ensures compliance with financial and regulatory obligations, and reports regularly to the Board (and, once established, Congress) on IPSTA's financial position.

8.7.3 Legal Director - provides legal guidance on governance, contracts, compliance and policy; keeps the Board informed of relevant legal and regulatory developments; leads (with the Secretary) the development and review of this Constitution, the Internal Regulations, the Governance Code and related policies; and supports dispute resolution and integrity matters. Where matters fall outside of the Legal Director's field of competence, they shall assist in securing appropriate third-party legal advice to share with the Board.

8.7.4 Directors - serve on and, where asked, lead Sub-Committees or Committees; contribute independent governance advice and relevant professional expertise; act as ambassadors for IPSTA; and participate fully in Board meetings and decisions.

8.8 Meetings of the Board

8.8.1 The Board meets as often as necessary and at least [quarterly]. Meetings may be held in person, virtually or in hybrid format, and Directors may vote by email or other agreed means when a meeting is held virtually.

8.8.2 A quorum is the greater of five Directors or 50% of voting Directors, at least one of whom must be the President or Vice-President. Each Director has one vote; the chair of the meeting has a casting vote in the event of a tie.

8.8.3 Board papers are, so far as practicable, circulated at least three days before a meeting. Minutes recording key decisions and actions are kept for every Board and Sub-Committee meeting.

8.8.4 A Director who, without good cause, fails to attend three consecutive Board meetings, or who attends fewer than 75% of Board meetings on a rolling twelve-month basis, may be removed from office by the Board and replaced in accordance with Article 8.4.

8.9 Board Committees

8.9.1 As IPSTA grows, the Board will establish a Nominations Committee and a Finance & Audit Committee, in line with the Code, to lead Board recruitment and succession

planning, and to oversee financial reporting and internal controls, respectively. Until those Committees are formally constituted, their functions are carried out by the full Board, with the President leading on nominations matters (other than in respect of their own re-appointment, which is led by the Vice-President) and the Treasurer leading on financial oversight matters, always ensuring that no individual has unfettered control over a financial or appointment decision (see Article 14.4).

8.9.2 The Board will keep under review the point at which formal Committees, each with independent, majority Independent Non-Executive Director membership consistent with the Code, should be established; this will in any event be assessed at each of the growth milestones in Article 21

8.10 Diversity and Inclusion

8.10.1 IPSTA is committed to ensuring its Board, Sub-Committees, Regional Leads and membership reflect and represent the diversity of the global Para-Standing Tennis community, including in relation to gender, disability, geography, and other forms of diversity relevant to IPSTA's work.

8.10.2 The Board will adopt, publish and review at least annually a Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan, identifying actions to achieve, support and maintain these ambitions across the Board, the Secretariat and IPSTA's wider structures, and will report progress against it to NAs.

8.11 Standards of Conduct, Evaluation and Welfare

8.11.1 The Board will adopt a Governance Code applying to all Directors, Officers, members of Sub-Committees, Committees, Regional Leads and employees, requiring them to act at all times in the best interests of IPSTA and with integrity, inclusivity and professionalism, and consistently with IPSTA's Conflict of Interest policy (Article 15).

8.11.2 The Board will undertake and record an annual self-evaluation of its own effectiveness, and an appraisal of each Director and the Secretary General and will commission an externally facilitated evaluation of the Board at least every four years or on the request of a material funder such as UK Sport or Sport England.

8.11.3 The Board will appoint one of its Directors as Welfare and Safety Lead Director, responsible for ensuring that welfare, safeguarding and player wellbeing are factored into the Board's decisions, and for providing a route for welfare and safety concerns to be raised.

8.12 Remuneration

8.12.1 Directors serve without remuneration for their role as Directors, save that they may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses properly incurred in the performance of their duties, in accordance with a policy approved by the Board.

9. The Secretariat and Secretary General

9.1 The Secretariat consists of the Secretary General and any other personnel engaged by IPSTA. Until a Secretary General is appointed, the functions described in this Article are carried out by the President, Vice-President and Secretary, acting together.

9.2 The Secretary General is appointed by the Board, on the recommendation of the President, on terms set out in a written contract approved by the Board. The Secretary General:

(a) implements decisions of the Board (and, once established, Congress);

(b) directs IPSTA's day-to-day activities in accordance with its objects and policies;

(c) leads and is accountable for IPSTA's staff; and

(d) represents IPSTA as directed by the Board.

9.3 The Secretary General may not hold an elected position within an NA, and may be removed by the Board in accordance with the terms of their contract.

10. Sub-Committees

10.1 IPSTA maintains the following permanent Sub-Committees, each chaired by a volunteer Chair and, save for exceptional circumstances, with a Board member acting as Board Representative to ensure two-way reporting between the Sub-Committee and the Board:

(a) Rules & Regulations;

(b) Classification;

(c) Event Logistics;

(d) Media;

(e) Rankings & Data; and

(f) Recruiting & Coaching.

10.2 Each Sub-Committee has the functions given to it in the Internal Regulations and any terms of reference approved by the Board, and reports to the Board through its Board Representative. Sub-Committees have no executive authority of their own; where a Sub-Committee member is asked to exercise executive functions, they act as a representative of IPSTA and not of the Sub-Committee.

10.3 The Board may establish additional Sub-Committees, vary the functions of existing Sub-Committees, or dissolve a Sub-Committee, in each case as IPSTA's priorities develop.

11. Regional Leads

11.1 IPSTA's Regional Leads are: Africa; Asia; Europe; North America; Oceania; and South America. The countries and territories within each Region are set out in Appendix 2 (which the Board may update from time to time).

11.2 An NA automatically becomes a member of the Regional Lead for its Region on affiliation to IPSTA, and may belong to only one Region.

11.3 Each Regional Lead, acting within the policies of IPSTA and respecting the autonomy of each NA within its own territory, is responsible for:

(a) promoting Para-Standing Tennis and increasing participation within its Region, including a particular focus on underrepresented groups;

(b) building relationships with NAs and prospective NAs in its Region;

(c) identifying venues and coordinating dates for all IPSTA sanctioned events, in coordination with the Event Logistics Sub-Committee;

(d) collecting and sharing results, player data and news from its Region with the relevant Sub-Committees; and

(e) such further functions as are set out in the Internal Regulations.

11.4 A Regional Lead has no authority to represent IPSTA before third parties beyond the authority expressly delegated to it. The Board may, subject to ratification by Congress once established, withdraw recognition of a Regional Lead that does not operate in the best interests of IPSTA or its NAs, and will in that case exercise the Regional Lead's functions until a new Regional Lead structure is convened.

12. Committees

12.1 The Board may establish Committees, determine their structure and terms of office, and appoint their members.

Appeals Committee

12.2 The Appeals Committee hears appeals against decisions of IPSTA (including its divisions and any disciplinary process), save where an appeal falls within the competence of a Regional Lead's own appeal process or is expressly excluded by this Constitution or the Internal Regulations. Its Chair is appointed by the Board and, so far as practicable, is independent of the matter under appeal.

13. Players' Commission

13.1 IPSTA intends to establish a Players' Commission once its player base and structures are sufficiently developed, to represent the interests of the international Para-Standing Tennis playing community, promote the values of fair and inclusive sport, and provide feedback on competition, classification and rules matters. Once established, its members will be democratically elected by IPSTA's player population in accordance with a Players' Commission Election Policy approved by the Board, and will elect their own Chair.

13.2 Until the Players' Commission is established, the Board will ensure there is a proportionate means of hearing player views on matters that affect them (for example through player surveys, focus groups or a nominated player contact), consistent with Article 8.10.

PART IV – FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

14. Finance

14.1 IPSTA is a non-profit organisation. Its financial resources may be used only in pursuit of the objects set out in this Constitution, and any compensation or reimbursement of expenses to an individual must be appropriate, justified and connected to those objects.

14.2 IPSTA's income may include: NA membership fees (set by the Board and, once established, ratified by Congress on a progressive basis appropriate to the size and resources of each NA); player classification or identification fees; hosting and participation fees for IPSTA events; fines imposed under the Regulations; income from sponsorship, media, marketing and merchandising; and donations, grants and subsidies.

14.3 The Financial Year of IPSTA runs from 1 January to 31 December. The Treasurer will prepare, and the Board will approve, an annual budget, and will present audited or independently examined annual accounts (proportionate to IPSTA's size) to NAs and, once established, to Congress, within a reasonable period after the end of each Financial Year. Accounts will be published in a manner accessible to Members and, so far as relevant, the public, consistent with the Code.

Financial controls

14.4 The Board will ensure that (a) no financial decision or payment process is controlled by one person acting alone; (b) bank accounts require authorisation by at least two Officers, including the Treasurer; (c) a reserves policy and financial risk register are maintained and reviewed at least annually; and (d) the Board receives regular management accounts and cash flow forecasts.

Liability

14.5 Only IPSTA's available resources are available to meet its liabilities. Members are not personally liable for IPSTA's debts (save to the extent, if any, of any guarantee given on becoming a member of a company limited by guarantee). Directors and members of the Secretariat are liable only for grossly negligent or unlawful acts, and IPSTA will maintain appropriate insurance (including directors' and officers' insurance) as its resources allow.

PART V – LEGAL PROVISIONS

15. Legal Compliance, Conflicts of Interest and Integrity

Legal compliance

15.1 The Board will ensure that it, individually and collectively, understands the key legal and regulatory obligations affecting IPSTA (including those specific to international sports governing bodies), adopts proportionate policies to address them, and reviews those policies regularly.

Safeguarding, anti-doping and integrity

15.2 IPSTA recognises and adopts the 'World Tennis Safeguarding Children and Adults Policy' (the "**WTSCAAP**"). IPSTA shall ensure that all IPSTA sanctioned tournaments and events hosted by NAs have in place appropriate safeguarding policies consistent with the requirements of the WTSCAAP.

15.3 IPSTA shall comply with the applicable World Anti-Doping Code as published by the World Anti-Doping Agency, cooperating with the International Tennis Integrity Agency on matters of fair play and clean sport. This extends to honesty in classification procedures: players must not mislead, or attempt to mislead, classifiers in order to obtain an inaccurate classification.

Conflicts of interest

15.4 The Board will maintain a Conflict of Interest policy applying to Directors, members of Sub-Committees, Committees and Regional Leads, requiring:

(a) disclosure of any interest that conflicts, or might reasonably be seen to conflict, with IPSTA's interests, and maintenance of a register of such interests;

(b) that a conflicted individual does not count towards quorum, participate in discussion, or vote, on the conflicted matter (for example, a Director must not vote on a bid to host an IPSTA event by their own NA); and

(c) that the President (or, if the President is conflicted, the Vice-President) is responsible for managing conflicts as they arise.

Environmental and social governance

15.5 The Board will factor the impact of its decisions on stakeholders, the environment and wider society into its decision-making, and will publish information about its approach to this as IPSTA's resources allow.

16. Relationship with the World Tennis and Other Bodies

16.1 IPSTA will keep this Constitution and the Internal Regulations consistent with those of the International Tennis Federation ("**World Tennis**"), recognises the World Tennis as the IOC recognised global governing body for tennis, and will cooperate with it to promote and develop Para-Standing Tennis worldwide in accordance with any memorandum of understanding between IPSTA and World Tennis.

16.2 In pursuing its objects, IPSTA also seeks alignment with the principles and frameworks of the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, and the World Anti-Doping Agency, in support of the wider Olympic and Paralympic Movement.

17. Dispute Resolution

17.1 Any dispute arising from this Constitution or the Regulations that cannot be resolved through IPSTA's internal appeal process (Article 12.2) will be governed by the laws of England & Wales and shall be referred to, and finally settled by, a tribunal constituted under the Constitution and Procedural Rules of the Court of Arbitration for Sport ("**CAS**") in Lausanne, Switzerland. NAs will ensure that their own regulations make the decisions of IPSTA and CAS binding on their members, clubs, players and officials.

17.2 Nothing in this Article prevents IPSTA from seeking urgent interim relief from a court of competent jurisdiction where necessary to protect its interests pending arbitration.

18. Amendment of the Constitution

18.1 Before Congress is established, this Constitution may be amended by a resolution of the Board passed by not less than two-thirds of voting Directors, provided that:

(a) not less than 21 days' written notice of the proposed amendment, including its full text, is given to all Directors and NAs; and

(b) any amendment to Article 3 (objects), Part IV (financial provisions), this Article 18, or Article 20 (dissolution) additionally requires the Board to have consulted NAs and to have taken account of any views received before the vote.

18.2 Once Congress is established, this Constitution may be amended only by Congress, by resolution passed by at least two-thirds of NAs present and entitled to vote, on a proposal from the Board or a non-suspended NA. Notice of a proposed amendment, including its full text, must be given to NAs at least 21 days before the Congress at which it is to be considered, save that this notice period may be waived by a vote of at least three-quarters of NAs present and entitled to vote.

19. Residual Authority

19.1 Any question or matter arising that is not provided for in this Constitution will be decided by the Board. The Board's decision is binding on all Members until reconsidered by Congress, once established.

19.2 The Board may make rules and regulations, not inconsistent with this Constitution, for the management and operation of IPSTA; these have force and effect until confirmed, amended or rejected at the next Congress once established.

20. Dissolution

20.1 If a Regional Lead ceases to exist, its responsibilities and any associated financial assets pass to the Board to assist in its re-establishment.

20.2 IPSTA may be dissolved by a resolution of the Board (before Congress is established) passed by not less than three-quarters of voting Directors, or, once Congress is established, by Congress in accordance with the Internal Regulations then in force.

20.3 If IPSTA is dissolved, its remaining assets, after satisfying its liabilities and the costs of dissolution, must be applied for objects consistent with those set out in Article 3 of this Constitution – that is, in support of the development of Para-Standing Tennis – and may not be distributed to Members or Directors. Any transfer of assets will be made in agreement with the applicable fiscal or regulatory authorities.

21. Duration, Transitional Arrangements and Review

21.1 This Constitution takes effect on its adoption by the Board and remains in force, as a founding constitution appropriate to IPSTA's current stage of development, until it is replaced or substantially revised by Congress at IPSTA's first Congress (Article 7.1).

21.2 The Board will formally review this Constitution, and IPSTA's alignment with the Code, on each of the following occasions (and at least every two years in any event):

- **(a)** when IPSTA reaches 10 NA Members;
- **(b)** before and after each World Championship;
- **(c)** on any application for funding from, or partnership with, UK Sport, Sport England, the International Paralympic Committee or a similar body; and
- **(d)** before convening the first Congress.

21.3 At each review, the Board will in particular consider whether to: formalise the Nominations and Finance & Audit Committees (Article 8.9); increase the proportion of Independent Non-Executive Directors beyond the Article 8.3 minimum; commission an external Board evaluation; introduce weighted voting for NAs; and update the Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan, safeguarding policy and risk register. This is intended to allow IPSTA to move, in a proportionate way, from the equivalent of Tier 1 towards Tier 2 and Tier 3 of the Code as its funding and activities grow, without requiring wholesale reorganisation at each stage.

21.4 Compliance with the letter and spirit of this Constitution is a condition of affiliation to IPSTA. The President will take reasonable steps to secure NAs' compliance, and will inform the Board of any significant breach identified in the course of their duties.

APPENDIX 1 – ALIGNMENT WITH THE UK CODE FOR SPORTS GOVERNANCE

IPSTA is not currently in receipt of Sport England or UK Sport funding and is not therefore formally subject to the Code. However, the Board has chosen to reflect the Tier 1 mandatory requirements of the Code in this Constitution from the outset, and to build in a pathway towards Tier 2/3 practice as IPSTA grows (Article 21), so that IPSTA is well placed to apply for such funding, or to partner with Code-compliant bodies, in future. The table below maps the Tier 1 Requirements to the relevant provisions of this Constitution.

Code Tier 1 Requirement	Summary	Constitution provision
Req. 1	Properly constituted, clear purpose; inclusive and accessible membership	Articles 1 - 4
Req. 2	Governing body meets regularly; decisions recorded	Articles 8.8, 8.8.3
Req. 3	Diverse viewpoints considered; skills and diversity of governing body	Articles 8.2.3, 8.3, 8.10
Req. 4	Regular election; no more than c. 9 years' service	Articles 8.4, 8.5
Req. 5	Information shared on governance, structure, activities, finances	Articles 7.1(c), 14.3, 21.2
Req. 6	Conflicts of interest recognised and managed; independence safeguards	Article 15.3; Article 8.2.4
Req. 7	Appropriate financial procedures: oversight, dual control, independent scrutiny	Article 14.3 - 14.4
Req. 8	Risks and liabilities assessed and managed	Articles 8.1.2(d), 14.4, 15.1

The Board has also, where proportionate for an organisation of IPSTA's current size, reflected a number of Tier 3 practices that go beyond the Tier 1 minimum – for example the 12-member Board cap, the commitment to Independent Non-Executive Directors, the Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan, the Welfare and Safety Lead Director, and annual Board evaluation – recognising that IPSTA intends to grow into a Tier 2/3-scale organisation over time.

APPENDIX 2 – REGIONAL LEAD SCHEDULE

The countries and territories allocated to each Regional Lead (Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, Oceania and South America) are set out in a schedule maintained by the Board, consistent with the country listing previously annexed to IPSTA's earlier draft constitution. The Board may update this schedule from time to time without the need for a full constitutional amendment, and will publish the current version to NAs and on IPSTA's website.