

**BYLAWS
OF
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS SWIMMING FEDERATION**

ARTICLE ONE

PURPOSES AND POLICIES

General Purpose

1.01 The purposes for which Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation (hereinafter NMISF) is formed are those set forth in its articles of incorporation, as from time to time amended namely, to foster island-wide, national and international swimming competition and open water swimming, artistic swimming, water polo and masters swimming. NMISF is not formed for financial gain and no part of the assets, income, or profit of NMISF is distributable to the benefit of its members, directors or officers. No substantial part of the activities of NMISF shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and NMISF shall not participate in, or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Federation aim

1.02 The aim of NMISF shall be to ensure the development and enhancement of aquatics (swimming, open water swimming, artistic swimming, water polo and masters swimming) in Saipan, Tinian and Rota. NMISF shall assist in the fullest possible measure the physical growth and development of the athletes without regard to race, color, creed, religious beliefs or economic status.

Basic policies

1.03 The following are basic policies of NMISF:

1.03.01 No commercial or partisan activities. NMISF shall be noncommercial, nonsectarian, and nonpartisan. It shall undertake nothing that would conflict with the principles of amateur athletics.

1.03.02 No misuse of name. The name of NMISF or the names of any members in their official capacities shall not be used in any connection with a commercial concern or with any partisan interest or for any purpose not appropriately related to promotion of the federation of NMISF.

1.03.03 World Aquatics. NMISF recognizes that World Aquatics (WA) is the only body which governs swimming, open water, water polo, artistic swimming, diving and masters swimming internationally.

1.03.04 World Aquatics Rules. NMISF will comply and act according to the WA Rules and all the decisions of the WA Congress and the WA Bureau.

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1.04 The objectives of NMISF shall be:

1.04.01 To promote and encourage aquatics through swimming, open water swimming, water polo, artistic swimming and masters swimming and the teaching thereof throughout Saipan, Tinian and Rota without distinction between persons of race, color, creed, religious beliefs or economic status.

1.04.02 To coordinate and foster the activities of swimming clubs in Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

1.04.03 To regulate and promote all aspects of competitive swimming, open water swimming, artistic swimming, water polo and masters swimming in Saipan, Tinian and Rota and to provide a uniform set of rules for the conduct therein.

1.04.04 To establish the criteria for the selection of swimmers and coaches to represent the Northern Mariana Islands at international competitions that include swimming, open water swimming, artistic swimming, water polo and masters swimming and to select and send those eligible within such criteria.

1.04.05 To affiliate with the Northern Mariana Sports Association (NMSA), Oceania Aquatics, and World Aquatics.

1.04.06 To actively promote the elimination and use of prohibited substances and techniques at all aquatic sports in the Northern Mariana Islands (Saipan, Tinian and Rota) as well as international competition and to impose sanctions on members committing doping offenses.

1.05 Doping

1.05.01 Adherence to World Anti-Doping Agency. The World Anti-Doping Code (Code) was first adopted in 2003 and became effective in 2004. The revised World Anti-Doping Code is effective as of January 1, 2021 and can be found at the following URL: https://www.wada-ama.org/sites/default/files/resources/files/2021_wada_code.pdf
The NMISF agrees to be bound by the Code as it is amended from time to time. The NMISF directors and officers are also required to comply and be bound by all of the provisions of the World Aquatics Doping Control Rules, including but not limited to all amendments to the Anti-Doping Rules and all International Standards incorporated in the Anti-Doping Rules.

1.05.02 NMISF will allow out-of-competition doping control by WA .

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1.06 Integrity Unit

1.06.01 In order to ensure all NMISF stakeholders can have confidence that ethical issues in the sport will be addressed independently and expertly, NMISF will refer all integrity related matters to the Northern Marianas Sports Association (NMSA) integrity unit. NMSA is operationally independent from NMISF.

1.06.02 The NMSA Integrity Unit handles all integrity-related matters in Aquatics, including ethical breaches, harassment and abuse, betting-related issues, result manipulation and anti-doping (in collaboration with the International Testing Agency). It protects the integrity of the sport by investigating and adjudicating violations; strengthening the capacity to prevent potential future wrongdoing; and ensuring NMISF complies with its obligations under the World Anti-Doping Code and the World Aquatics Rules.

ARTICLE TWO

MEMBERS

Classes of membership and rights

2.01 NMISF shall have one (1) class of members with voting rights.

Qualifications and definition of members

2.02 A member shall be a swim club. A swim club shall be defined as a team involved in competitive swimming, open water swimming, artistic swimming, water polo and masters swimming as approved for membership by the majority of the Board of Directors.

2.02.01 For the purposes of identifying, verifying, tracking and management of individual athletes, each competitor shall be a member of a Club.

Admission to membership

2.03 A club involved in swimming, open water swimming, artistic swimming, water polo and masters swimming **must** apply for membership to NMISF if they wish to participate in any NMISF or WA organized local, regional or international aquatic competition. The Board of Directors shall have the right to place additional requirements upon a club as a condition of admission. The club shall become a member of NMISF upon approval by the majority of the Board of Directors.

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Membership book

2.04 NMISF shall keep a membership book containing the name, birthdates, and citizenship of each swimmer and coach. Termination of the membership of any member shall be recorded in the book.

Transferability of membership

2.05 Membership in NMISF is non-transferable and non-assignable.

Termination of membership by resignation or ineligibility

2.06 The membership of any member of NMISF shall automatically terminate (i) on the member's written request. (ii) A member who shall fail to follow and comply with any of the rules, regulations, and requirements established by these By-laws, or by the Board of Directors, may thus become ineligible to continue as a member and may be terminated by majority vote of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall also have the right to terminate a member by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Membership year - payment of dues

2.07 The membership year of NMISF shall be from the first day of September of each year. The Board shall decide the amount of dues to be assessed to each member in each year and only once during the membership year.

ARTICLE THREE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Duties

3.01 It shall be the duty of the Board to:

3.01.01 Oversight of athletes and clubs. Encourage all member swimmers, swim clubs, coaches, and officials at all sanctioned racing competitions approved by NMISF to uphold the highest level of sportsmanship and ethics.

3.01.02 Regular meetings. Meet at such times and places each month as required.

3.01.03 General Assembly Meeting. The NMISF Board of Directors will conduct an annual general assembly in the 4th quarter of the calendar year. All interested parties associated with NMISF will be invited. The Board of Directors will provide an annual review of activities to stakeholders, conduct elections as necessary and provide an open forum to discuss issues concerning the NMISF and its members.

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Compensation

3.02 Directors shall serve without compensation.

Regular meetings

3.03 Regular meetings shall be held monthly or on the call of the president, or if the president is absent, by the Secretary General. Voting on issues may only take place during a meeting with quorum and via electronic means (e-mail) as necessary.

Proxy Voting

3.04 Members shall have the right to vote either in person or by a written proxy executed by a member and filed with the secretary of NMISF. No proxy shall be valid for more than 30 days from the date of execution.

Conduct of meetings

3.05 No business shall be considered by the Board at any meeting at which a quorum is not present, and the only motion which the president shall entertain at such a meeting is a motion to adjourn.

3.05.01 All meetings of the Board shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

Quorum

3.06 A quorum of the Board shall consist of a majority of the directors.

ARTICLE FOUR

DIRECTORS/OFFICERS, AND REPRESENTATIVES

Number

4.01 NMISF shall have a minimum of three (3) officers in addition to no more than three (3) members-at-large, one (1) president/representative per member swim club and a representative of the Athletes' commission which will collectively be known as the "Board".

Voting rights

4.02 The NMISF president, secretary general, treasurer, president/representative of swim clubs and members-at-large and the representative of the Athletes' commission have one (1) vote during meetings.

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Partisan

4.03 A voting director or officer of the NMISF may not hold a paid position on the board of directors at any swim club during their NMISF board tenure.

Titles

4.04 The officers of NMISF shall be a president, secretary general and a treasurer.

Duties of president

4.05 The president shall, subject to the control of the Board, supervise the affairs of NMISF. The president shall preside at all meetings of the Board and represent NMISF at off island meetings and international competitions. The president shall represent the NMISF on the NMSA Board.

Duties of secretary general

4.06 The secretary general shall record and keep minutes of meetings. The secretary general shall also provide to the president reports whenever requested to do so and represent NMISF when the president is unavailable. The secretary general may also represent NMISF at off island meetings and international competitions.

Duties of treasurer

4.07 The treasurer shall maintain accounts, provide financial reports, receive and disburse funds. The treasurer shall also provide financial reports at board meetings or whenever requested to do so.

Club Representatives

4.08 The president of each member swim club will be a voting director at all NMISF meetings. The head coach of each member swim club will be a non-voting director at all NMISF meetings. All other persons may preside as an audience without voting rights.

Member-at-Large

4.09 The members-at-large will be actively involved in aquatics in Saipan, Tinian or Rota, board elected and partisan and not directly affiliated with a member club.

Athletes' Commission Representative

4.10 NMISF shall have an Athletes' Commission consisting of a minimum of five (5) current athletes or former athletes. The Athletes' Commission will meet quarterly to ensure that the athletes' viewpoint remains at the heart of NMISF mission and decision making process. The Athletes' Commission shall elect one of its members to represent the athletes' as a voting member of the NMISF Board.

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Election of directors

4.11 Directors shall have a term limit of four (4) years. Directors shall be elected at a general assembly meeting of the NMISF. NMISF shall have at least 30% of each gender represented on the Board. Directors shall be eligible for re-election with a limitation on two (2) consecutive terms. It is the policy of the board that no director may run for election after reaching the age of 75. The NMISF shall notify Oceania Aquatics and WA of new directors.

ARTICLE FIVE

MANAGEMENT OF COMPETITIONS

Officials

5.01 The following officials will serve in a management role for competitions:

referee (no affiliation with competing swim teams)
starter (may be combined with referee duties)
clerk of course (2) (one to place swimmers, one to record times)
judges of stroke (2) (positioned on either side of pool deck, may be combined with inspector of turns)
inspector of turns (2) (positioned at either end of pool deck, may be combined with judges of stroke)
chief timer (1) (timer not assigned to any other lane) (optional)
timers (3 per lane) (timing components must be same for record purposes)

The above list is the optimal officials to run a fair swim competition. Some flexibility and exceptions may be discussed with NMISF two weeks prior to a competition.

Officials' decision making

5.02 Officials shall make their decision autonomously and independently of each other.

Officials' roles

5.03 Officials may only serve one role during competitions, with the exception of timers/turn stroke. This would be established before the start of the meet.

Head Coaches' roles

5.04 Head Coaches may only serve as coach to swimmers of their designated teams.

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ARTICLE SIX

NMISF RECORDS

6.01 To be eligible to hold a Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation (NMISF) record, a swimmer must be a registered competitor and a member in good standing of a member club of NMISF. The swimmer must also be a resident of the CNMI and compete as a representative of the Northern Mariana Islands.

6.02 NMISF shall maintain a register of all Saipan long and short course national and age group records in meters as applicable.

6.03 NMISF records will only be accepted when times are recorded by automatic timing, semi-automatic timing or manual timing and shall be recognized to 100th (one hundredth) of a second and must be submitted on the *Verification of Official Time – Application for Record Recognition* properly filled out and signed by the appropriate officials. Swimmers will be recognized as joint holders of the record when more than one has the same time.

6.04 The distances for NMISF individual long and short course records are listed below.

Long and Short Course

8 & Under

Freestyle	50, 100, 200, 400
Back	50, 100
Breast	50, 100
Fly	50, 100
IM	200

9-10

Freestyle	50, 100, 200, 400, 800
Back	50, 100, 200
Breast	50, 100, 200
Fly	50, 100, 200
IM	200

11-12, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18, Open

Freestyle	50, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1500
Back	50, 100, 200
Breast	50, 100, 200
Fly	50, 100, 200
IM	200, 400

6.05 NMISF age group records will be recognized for males and females in yearly ages as follows: under 8 years, 9-10 years, 11-12 years, 13-14 years, 15-16 years, and Open (17 years and over). Age will be determined at the date of the swim.

6.06 Using official electronic timing equipment and reflected in official results and splits, a swimmer may establish a record for an intermediate distance within an individual record distance. The swimmer must successfully complete the entire distance for the record.

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6.07 Using official electronic timing equipment and reflected in official results and splits, the first swimmer in a relay event may establish a record for an individual record distance.

ARTICLE SEVEN

SELECTION FOR INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

Criteria for swimmers

7.01 A swimmer will only be eligible to take part in international competitions if he/she is a current registered competitor and a member in good standing of a member Club of NMISF. Swimmers must meet the NMISF eligibility standards, have the Northern Mariana Islands as their primary residence and meet the eligibility rules governing the particular meet.

Criteria for coaches

7.02 Coaches must be a member in good standing with the NMISF.

EXECUTION

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned directors and representatives of the NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS SWIMMING FEDERATION have subscribed their names to signify their vote for the adoption of the foregoing Bylaws as revised this 07 day of October, 2024

s/Colin Thompson _____
President

s/John Hirsh _____
Secretary General

Treasurer

s/Emma Perez _____
President
Dolphin Swim Club

s/Juan Blanco _____
President
Saipan Swim Club

s/Hiroko Kubota Tenorio _____
President
Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center

s/Edgar Johnson _____
Member-at-Large

s/Valrick Welch _____
Member-at Large