GOVERNANCE
in the World Transplant Games Federation

What is the definition of Governance in the WTGF?
Governance is the system by which the WTGF is controlled and operated, as well as the mechanisms by which the Federation and its members are held to account. The following are some of the elements/areas covered by the term Governance:

- Ethics,
- Risk management,
- Compliance and
- Administration, including Financial Management.

How do we deal with Governance in the WTGF?

The Process of Selecting the Governance Standing Committee:
Once the Members of the General Assembly have elected the Trustees, the Board meets, and the President and Executive invite Trustees with knowledge and experience to make up the Governance Standing Committee.

This Committee is guided by the WTGF Articles of Association and the By-laws as agreed to by the Membership. In the case of issues arising in the general membership or in particular countries, the members of the Governance Standing Committee are called on to investigate and make recommendations to the Executive and Board on how to deal with the situation.

The Governance Standing Committee also invites individuals from outside the Board with the necessary knowledge and expertise to be co-opted onto the committee, usually solicitors and persons with experience dealing with relevant issues, such as company and charity law. This ensures that decisions are reached without any emotional or other agendas.

Over the next year, we will endeavour to address a number of subjects related to Governance and how it is dealt with. If there is anything that anyone wants us to address, please inform the WTGF Office.

We start by looking at governance and its relationship to WTGF Membership.

Membership of the WTGF

Membership in the WTGF is a privilege, not a right, and as such, members should cherish their association with the WTGF, their fellow members, and all the transplant recipients in their respective countries.

At this stage, there is only one category of membership in the WTGF – Full Membership. Only one Full Member per country is allowed. This brings a heavy responsibility to that organisation to ensure that all transplanted athletes from their country are suitably represented and have equal opportunities to participate in the WTGF events. It is the responsibility of the Governance Committee to ensure that this takes place and that there are no exclusions or discrimination. Membership has to be formally renewed every two years, which allows the WTGF to ensure that each member country is still following the guidelines for membership as set out in the By-laws.

After the initial application to become a member of the WTGF, it is the responsibility of the member to carefully look after the transplant community in that particular country and ensure that they are made aware of all the activities available to them through the WTGF. The WTGF will only deal with the Country Representative in a country. The Country Member will be required to distribute news and messages so that the transplant community is informed of all the WTGF activities and projects.
Should it come to the attention of the WTGF that a member is not complying with the objectives and mission of the WTGF, the Governance Committee will start a process of communication to ascertain the facts and, if required, will make some recommendations to the member to ensure full compliance with the WTGF objectives and mission. If a member still fails to comply with the WTGF requirements, a process of intervention and possible sanction will be instituted as set out in the By-laws. Should the member continue to be non-compliant, this process could lead to the member losing its membership of the WTGF – See the process as set out in the By-laws – By-law 1 Membership No. 3.

Over time, the WTGF has received various complaints from individuals and groups regarding the fairness of processes that some country organisations implement when selecting teams. Should such complaints be received, the Governance Committee has to investigate them and deal with them fairly and equitably.

Should a member country, after a process of investigation, consultation, and arbitration, be found guilty of non-compliance or discriminating against individuals in their country, it could lead to sanction and eventually to that organisation losing its membership in the WTGF. These processes are detailed in the By-laws, and members are urged to familiarise themselves with the various conditions that could lead to sanction or intervention by the WTGF.

In her acceptance speech at the Gala event in Perth, our President, Liz Schick, made it very clear that it is her and the newly elected Board of the WTGF’s goal to grow the transplant family worldwide and to ensure that as many transplant recipients as possible are enabled to participate in the various events and programmes of the Federation. To this end, the Governance Standing Committee is committed to ensuring that the goals and mission of the Federation are closely guarded and upheld by all of our members to ensure that we have a harmonious and caring “family” that can participate in WTGF events and programmes.