

Ref. DM 24-082
WT Ref. No. MNI 025-445
October 15, 2025

Mr. Raymundo González
Federación Mexicana de Taekwondo (FMTKD)

Notice to Show Cause – Governance and Compliance Matters Concerning the Federación Mexicana de Taekwondo (FMTKD)

Dear Mr. González,

As articulated in its Statutes, World Taekwondo's guiding philosophy is that *Peace is More Precious than Triumph*. This is echoed in WT's 2025 motto, *Harmony Brings Glory*. For WT, these are not merely words on paper. They are intended to guide how we work with our members and how we ask our members to work with us. We believe that Olympic Taekwondo should be developed in a spirit of respect, inclusiveness, transparency, and integrity, with an emphasis on an athlete-centered approach.

Over the past year, WT has become increasingly concerned that the Federación Mexicana de Taekwondo (FMTKD) may no longer be able to adequately represent these principles or to safeguard the integrity of Olympic Taekwondo in Mexico.

WT recognizes that every Member faces challenges in maintaining transparency and unity. Nevertheless, recent events within FMTKD raise questions that WT cannot overlook if it is to fulfill its obligation to safeguard the integrity of Taekwondo in Mexico.

These concerns can be traced to numerous reports regarding the FMTKD elections in 2024 and from subsequent correspondence and documentation. This includes FMTKD's failure to hold its General Assembly (GA) in accordance with its own rules on 6 July 2024. [Exhibit 1]. And then the concerns raised by the Mexican government's oversight body regarding FMTKD's 23 August 2024 GA. [Exhibits 2-to-6].

Recognizing the complexity of the situation, WT sought to pursue a cooperative solution. We invited FMTKD to participate in a joint, multi-body framework together with the competent national and regional authorities so that new elections could be conducted under mutually agreed rules and process to ensure that their fairness and transparency could not be questioned. [Exhibits 7-to-12].

Regrettably, FMTKD seems determined to reject this offer. Instead, FMTKD appears to be seeking immunity from oversight, both domestic and international, and further to be claiming that any attempts at oversight amounts to interference. At the same time, WT has continued to receive information raising further concerns from athletes, clubs, regional associations, and other WT stakeholders in Mexico, who fear they are being systematically and ruthlessly stripped of their rights by FMTKD.

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I. Indications of FMTKD's Failure of Transparency and Abuse of Authority

A. Lack of Transparency Regarding Statutes: It appears that FMTKD's Statutes are not available to its members.

WT notes that FMTKD's Statutes are not published. Furthermore, WT has received evidence that FMTKD has failed to respond to requests from members for providing those Statutes. [Exhibits 13, 14].

This reinforces concerns raised throughout late 2024 regarding gaps in documentation, indicating an information vacuum regarding the MNA, which originally led to WT urging new elections in line with WT norms. [Exhibit 15].

B. Possible Failure to Properly Adopt Election-Rule Amendments: WT has concerns that FMTKD Statute amendments regarding fundamental member electoral rights may not have been circulated or approved in accordance with the requirements of Mexican law or FMTKD's own internal procedures.

WT acknowledges that FMTKD can provide some documents related to its 23 July 2022 GA (Art 29 Bis). But despite WT's request for evidence that FMTKD communicated the rule amendments to its members, we found no record that there was publication or communication of rule amendments to members either prior to or after that date. [Exhibit 16].

Combined with the lack of published Statutes, the apparent neglect in sharing these rules with members indicates a significant governance transparency failure.

Further, WT notes that the July 2022 GA records were not notarized until approximately six months after that meeting, in January 2023. [Exhibit 17]. This contrasts with only five days taken to have the 23 August 2024 GA results notarized. [Exhibit 18]. The unusually long period between the conclusion of the July 2022 meeting and having the record formally sealed does nothing to alleviate WT's concerns raised by the lack of publication and indications that members requests for this basic information about core governance processes are not being responded to.

C. Excessively Controlling Rules Over Regional Member Elections: FMTKD member election rules appear to grant excessive discretion to FMTKD's management, including control over candidate eligibility, voter credentialing, and the administration of state-level election processes. This includes the requirement for regional members to submit election documentation to FMTKD's national office in Mexico City to get endorsement for elections and assembly (FMTKD Statutes Arts 21 (V-VII), and oversight functions in Art. 40(IX-XIX)).

From this, it appears that FMTKD has direct management over state election mechanics, including candidate vetting, credentialing, and pre-registration. In WT's experience, we have been unable to find any other Olympic National Federation with such centralized control over its voting members.

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D. Excessive Impact on Regional Members: Further concerning for WT are the reports that FMTKD is trying to use these rules to sideline local governance and even designated election oversight bodies. [Exhibit 19-to-28].

On top of this, WT has received reports that FMTKD is using its authority, in part granted to it by the WT Global Membership System, to negatively impact both athlete participation and voting eligibility at the state level by delayed or non-issuance of certificates, invoices, and credentials. [Exhibits 29-to-34].

II. FMTKD's Obligations as a WT-Recognized Member National Association

FMTKD is an organization that exists under the laws of Mexico, with the corresponding rights and obligations. However, FMTKD is also a WT Member National Association (MNA), with the corresponding rights and obligations.

A. WT Has the Clear Authority to Enforce Member Governance Standards

In particular, the requirements to be a WT Member National Association include the duty of “Conformity to WT Statutes and related rules,” requiring that MNAs maintain their constitutional documents in strict conformity with WT’s principles, ensuring that none of their actions or governing provisions contravene WT’s rules and regulations. (*Statutes Art. 8 — Membership requirements*)

The WT Statutes clearly establish WT’s mission and authority:

- Primary Objective

WT’s purpose is “*to provide effective governance and administration of the sport of Taekwondo worldwide in accordance with the values and traditions of the martial art as well as the general and fundamental principles of good governance of the Olympic and Paralympic movements.*” (Art. 2.1)

- WT’s sub-objectives include:

- “*...establish and control the rules, policies and practices governing membership in order to protect the integrity of Taekwondo and grow and develop the practice of Taekwondo...*” (Art. 2.1.2)
- “*strengthen the bonds between members, develop the capacities of members, and resolve disputes between member...*” (Art. 2.1.3)
- “*encourage peace and cooperation through participation in sport;*” (Art. 2.1.8)
- “*strengthen and uphold WT’s Objectives and Principles by taking such measures as may be necessary for advancing the interests of Taekwondo worldwide...*” (Art. 2.1.12)

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Under Article 10, all Members must recognize and abide by:

- “*The WT Statutes and all related rules and regulations*” (Art. 10.1.1), and “*The mandatory nature of WT rules, decisions, and sanctions*” (Art. 10.1.3).

Finally, WT’s authority to act in defense of these principles is also clearly set forth. Under Articles 8.6 and 8.7, WT has the power to suspend and revoke the membership of an MNA that engages in poor governance or fails to represent WT’s mission and objectives. These powers are intended to ensure that governance failures in one national body do not compromise WT’s global integrity standards or athletes’ rights.

B. WT MNA Autonomy Under the WT Statutes is Conditioned on Compliance with WT Rules

Under WT Statutes Article 2.3:

2.3.1 As required by Article 25 of the Olympic Charter, WT maintains its independence and autonomy in the administration of the sport of Taekwondo. In accordance with this, MNAs and CUs must manage their internal affairs with total independence from undue influence, such as political, religious or financial pressure, which may infringe their commitment to conform to the WT Statutes and ensure that no third party interferes in their operations.

2.3.2 Any external form of interference, undue influence or attempt shall be reported to WT.

2.3.3 A Member’s governing documents must make provision for an election or internal appointment system that ensures compliance with this section by the Member.

2.3.4 WT may take appropriate action against any Members not in compliance with this Section.

Article 2.3 of the WT Statutes enshrines the principle of autonomy, reflecting Article 25 of the Olympic Charter. It begins by asserting WT’s own independence and autonomy in administering the sport of Taekwondo and then extends this principle to its Members and Continental Unions, which “*must manage their internal affairs with total independence from undue influence, such as political, religious or financial pressure, which may infringe their commitment to conform to the WT Statutes.*” Under Article 2.3.2, any form of interference or attempt must be reported to WT. The structure of the provision recognizes MNA autonomy only within WT’s overarching framework of conformity, transparency, and accountability.

Thus, as per its language, Article 2.3.1, etc. act as a WT oversight mechanism over MNAs, ensuring MNAs run their affairs *independently from third parties and in conformity with WT Statutes*, and that any undue interference is reported up to WT, and includes a right of action on WT’s part for MNAs found to be out of conformity with WT Statutes.

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C. WT MNAs Agree to WT Oversight Over Elections, Transparency, and Other Matters

WT is a voluntary association. No federation is required to be a WT Member. As a condition to being a WT member organization, with the corresponding right to represent Olympic Taekwondo in their territory, MNAs must agree to a number of requirements. These include the following:

8.4.1 Conformity to WT Statutes and related rules: All Members shall constitute and maintain their respective constitutional documents in strict conformity with the principles of WT so as not to contravene any of its rules and regulations. Each Member's constitutional document shall include the following statement:

"As a member of World Taekwondo, [MEMBER NAME] agrees to observe the Statutes, bylaws, codes, and rules of World Taekwondo. In case of a conflict or dissonance between the [MEMBER NAME] rules and the WT rules, the latter shall prevail."

8.4.2 Reporting: MNAs are required to:

8.4.2.1 Complete and submit the MNA Information and Integrity and Compliance Pledge that is included in the biennial MNA Survey, and report to the WT if the MNA information on the WT website needs to be updated;

8.4.2.2 Upon elections, within 10 days of the elections, submit to WT a completed MNA Election Form and the MNA Information and Integrity and Compliance Pledge;

8.4.2.3 Complete the biennial MNA Survey;

8.4.2.4 Submit a report of activities to the WT upon WT's request;

Thus, Article 8.4.1 requires every MNA's constitution to be in *strict conformity* with WT Statutes and to contain a supremacy clause giving priority to WT rules in any conflict. Regarding Article 2.3, above, this means that an MNA's "autonomy", as provided in the WT Statutes and flowing from the IOC Charter, exists only within WT's governance framework. This is because WT (following the IOC's guidance) requires our members to abide by an international standard of good governance as a condition to WT membership.

Articles 8.4.2.1 – 8.4.2.4, obligate MNAs to submit election reports, integrity pledges, and activity updates. By accepting WT membership, MNAs voluntarily subject themselves to WT's governance and integrity standards, including specifically those related to elections. (See Also Statutes 2.4.1, where all members are to abide by best practices, with reference to the Integrity Code and Election Bylaws).

The reporting and integrity provisions expressly authorize WT to verify that MNAs operate democratically and transparently. And Statutes 8.6 foresees the ability of WT to create an Interim Board where it is determined that a member falls short of WT's governance or other requirements.

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D. WT Exercises Member Oversight with Proportionality and Checks and Balances

WT rules provide for significant oversight over members, when needed. Yet, as reflected in WT's prior offer to FMTKD, and in line with WT's philosophy of *Peace is more Precious than Triumph*, WT practice is to exercise such powers very conservatively, with a preference to seek a mutually agreed solution.

In addition, in line with WT's commitment to good governance, there are built-in checks and balances to safeguard against abuse of authority by WT management.

In this instance, the decision on 9 May 2025 was made unanimously by the full WT Council, which is comprised of 37 individuals from 30 countries representing all five Olympic Continents, including 19 who are directly elected by the WT General Assembly, another 6 who represent other organizations on an ex-officio basis, and 2 athlete representatives elected by athletes.

Further, the Council decision was made upon recommendation of the MRD Commission, itself comprised of the chairs and vice chairs of WT's Development, Education, and Taekwondo For All Committees, as well as a representative of Para Taekwondo.

Additional consultation was also provided by the WT Juridical Committee, whose seven members are all volunteers with impeccable legal credentials, including four members with no other relationship to Taekwondo, WT, or its management whatsoever.

Further, should WT determine it is necessary to revoke an MNA's membership, this decision must ultimately be ratified by the full WT General Assembly (Statutes 5.5.8 on the powers of the GA), which is comprised of representatives from over 200 nations and territories.

III. NOTICE TO SHOW CAUSE

Once again, WT regrets that we have reached this stage.

Pursuant to Articles 8.6 and 8.7 of the World Taekwondo Statutes, this correspondence constitutes a formal notice to show cause. WT hereby requests that the Federación Mexicana de Taekwondo (FMTKD) provide written explanations and documentary evidence addressing the matters outlined in Sections I and II above.

In particular, FMTKD is invited to demonstrate:

1. That its current Statutes and electoral regulations were lawfully adopted and are valid under Mexican law and FMTKD's own internal procedures;
2. That these governing documents have been duly published and made accessible to all members;
3. That it has provided its members with an appropriately venue to hear disputes, with clear recourse to an independent external tribunal and that members have been made duly aware of it;

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4. That FMTKD's electoral framework and administrative practices comply with the principles of transparency, inclusiveness, and democratic representation; and
5. That FMTKD remains in full conformity with WT's mission and governance standards as defined in Articles 2.1, 2.3, 8.4, and related provisions.

FMTKD is required to respond within twenty (20) days of receipt of this notice (by 4 November 2025, 11:59 pm Korea Standard Time). The response must include all relevant documents, certifications, and minutes necessary to verify compliance with WT's requirements.

Failure to provide a timely and satisfactory response will compel WT to consider appropriate measures under Article 8 of the Statutes. This potentially includes the suspension of membership and the establishment of an Interim Management Board under Article 8.6, which will assume full oversight over FMTKD activities.

And should FMTKD still choose not to work with WT to resolve these matters, then its WT membership may be subject to revocation under Article 8.7 of the WT Statutes. We stress these possibilities here so that FMTKD is fully aware of the implications of its WT Membership should it be found non-compliant with WT requirements.

Yours sincerely,

Asifa Ali
Dispute Coordinator
WT Global Integrity Unit

List of Exhibits

1. 2024.07.07 Calling Notice Elective GA on 6 July 2024
2. 2024.09.09 Notification of FMTKD Assembly Suspension
3. 2024.09.09 FMTKD Assembly Held Despite Suspension
4. 2024.09.19 Clarification Regarding the Legitimacy of FMTKD Election
5. 2024.11.27 Resolution on Assembly Suspension and Sanction
6. 2024.11.27 Notification of Sanction Against FMTKD
7. 2025.04.30 Request for Cooperation in Forming an Interim Body
8. 2025.05.02 Nomination to Interim Body
9. 2025.05.06 Response to Interim Body Invitation and Nomination
10. 2025.05.07 Additional Nomination to Interim Management Body
11. 2025.05.07 Re Participation in the Interim Management Body for FMTKD
12. 2025.05.08 Nomination to Interim Management Body
13. 2025.01.30 Assembly Act Submission and Request for Updated Statute
14. 2025.01.30 Reiteration of Request for Updated Statutes
15. 2025.01.29 Response to Questions DM 24-082
16. 2024.09.25 Information of EGA 23 July 2022
17. 2024.09.19 Minutes of 23 July 202 EGA
18. 2024.09.19 Minutes 23 Aug 2024 GA Notarization
19. 2025.06.10 Calling Notice 19 June 2025 GA Aguascalientes
20. 2025.06.10 Pre-Registration Form for Aguascalientes Assembly
21. 2025.06.23 Resolution on Electoral Controversy and Suspension of Assembly
22. 2025.06.23 Urgent Notice on Suspension of AETA Assembly
23. 2025.06.27 Report on Suspended Assembly and Alleged Irregular Acts
24. 2025.07.28 Resolution Declaring Nullity of 2025 Election Process
25. 2025.06.10 Appointment of Reorganization Commission
26. 2025.06.10 Confirmation of Reorganization Commission
27. 2025.06.10 Calling Notice 20 June 2025 GA State of Mexico
28. 2025.06.23 Official Objection to AETKDEM Assembly and Legal Concerns
29. 2025.06.03 Report of Account Suspension on MiEscuela TKD Platform
30. 2025.06.06 Resubmission of Request for RUF Credentials and Certificates
31. 2025.07.04 Report on FMTKD Irregularities Affecting Guerrero Athletes
32. 2025.08.19 Report on Retaliation by FMTKD Against UMTKD
33. 2025.08.29 Closure of Affiliation Platform
34. 2025.08.29 Report on Retaliation Against AGKTD

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