

Membership Application: Badminton Federation of Kosovo



Context

At the beginning of 2019, the BWF received a membership application from the Badminton Federation of Kosovo (**BFK**). Its formal requirements were verified by BWF, and the application was circulated to the BWF membership on 2 April 2019.

As per article 12.2 of the BWF Constitution, the BWF Council has the power to elect an applicant federation as a BWF Member, unless it receives objections from five or more Members within one month after circulation of the application.

As per article 12.4 of the BWF Constitution, if an application receives five or more objections, it is to be placed on the agenda for consideration by the next AGM. A simple majority of votes is required to elect the applicant as a BWF Member.

As of 2 May 2019, one month after the circulation of the application, the BWF had received objections from the Members Associations of seven countries: Serbia, Greece, Romania, Cyprus, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Spain.

The purpose of this document is to assist the AGM in making a decision by providing information on the context of the BFK application.

The BFK application

BWF confirms that BKF submitted all the required documents for admission as a BWF Member, including a signed Schedule A.

Arguments raised in the objections

In their letters of objection, the seven MAs stated that their respective countries had not recognised Kosovo as an independent state. Furthermore, they emphasised that Kosovo has not been recognised as an independent nation by the United Nations.

Position of the sports community

Kosovo is a full member of the International Olympic Committee and the European Olympic Committees, with full membership having been granted to the Olympic Committee of Kosovo by the International Olympic Committee on 9 December 2014. Kosovo is also a full member of 25 international federations including FIFA (2016), IAAF (2015), ITF (2015), FIBA (2015), FINA (2015), UCI (2015), IWF (2008), and FIVB (2016).

Relevant articles of the BWF Constitution

Clause 8 – MEMBERS

Members and all applicants for membership of the Federation shall fulfil the following criteria:

(...)

8.2. cover the territory of a country that is recognised as such and recognised as an independent and sovereign state by the international community;

(...)

8.2.2. Clause 8.2 shall not apply to territories, which have their own National Olympic Committee recognised by the IOC.