

**MAIN TOPICS TO BE COVERED IN THE STATUTES OF A GENERIC WATER  
USERS ASSOCIATION (WUA)  
BY  
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**Chapter 1: Establishment of the Association and its functions**

1. Name of the Association
2. Location
3. Objectives and functions of the Association
4. A record of the establishment of the Association as a legal entity
5. Reference to the license or permit for the use of water.
6. Definition of the Water rights of the Association and its members
7. Access to the membership of the Association, for leaving the membership and for exclusion from the membership. Right and duties of the members
8. Register of members

**Chapter 2: Governance and Management bodies**

9. General description of the management bodies of the Association and their functions
  - **General Assembly**
10. Provisions regulating the preparation and conduction of the Association meetings.
11. List of potential issues that may require two thirds of the member votes to adopt resolution on them.
12. Number of participants required to render the general assembly meeting valid.
13. Conducting the business of the annual General meeting
14. Powers of the General Assembly
15. Elections of the President and constitution of the Management Board
16. Voting rights
  - **Management Board**
17. Composition of the Board
18. Provisions for the removal of members of the management board
19. Meetings of the Board
20. Powers and duties of the management board
21. Duties of the officers: president, vice president, secretary, assistant secretary, treasurer, Assistant treasurer, trustees.
  - **Management Staff (Water Service Provider )**
22. Conditions for hiring the Manager and the technical staff of the WUA
  - **Audit Committee**
23. Establishment of an Audit Committee and its functions
  - **Other Committees**
24. Establishment of other committees, such as arbitration of conflicts, supervision of engineering works, technical assistance to farmers, etc..)

**Chapter 3: Rights and obligations regarding the irrigation infrastructure and the properties of the Association**

25. Resources of the WUA
26. Inventory of the works licensed or property of the Association
27. Servitudes and rights of way

28. Obligations regarding the maintenance of the works
29. Capacity of the Association to contract maintenance works and rehabilitation works with private companies.

#### **Chapter 4: Operational matters**

30. Provisions regulating the system of water distribution, cropping patterns, irrigation scheduling and operation and maintenance. The details of these provisions may be detailed in an “ Operation and Water Distribution Manual”

#### **Chapter 5: Financial matters**

31. Powers to levy and collect fees
32. Membership fees, their size, terms for collection.
33. Procedure for the annual approval of accounts and auditing of the accounts
34. Taxation
35. Definition of the financial year
36. Accounts to be maintained. Keeping records of transactions
37. Arrears
38. Establishment and use of the Reserve fund (if applicable)
39. Inspection of books
40. Audit
41. Use of the Seal of the Association
42. Savings
43. Annual Balance
44. Valuation of the properties of the Association
45. Authority to sign checks

#### **Chapter 6: Liabilities, sanctions and compensations**

46. Offenses and penalties
47. Applicable laws
48. Compensation for damages caused by the Association to the members
49. Responsibilities and liabilities of members with respect to the financial liabilities of the Association with third parties.
50. Penalties for non payment of water fees
51. Settlement of disputes
52. Appeals
53. Notices

#### **Chapter 7: General conditions**

54. Conditions for amending the statutes of the Association Articles
55. Dissolution of the Association
56. Resignations
57. Appointment of a Commissioner
58. Interpretation of terms
59. Deposit and administration of the funds of the Association

#### **Notes:**

1. Every numeral refers to an article of the statutes and it can be broken down into sections where different matters referring to the article are specified and described in more details.
2. The articles indicated above correspond to a medium size WUA. Small associations may not need all the articles mentioned while larger associations or multipurpose associations may need additional articles to define other activities and additional responsibilities.