



## STATUTES

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## **INTRODUCTION**

These Statutes recall the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI)'s purposes and objectives and reflect its core values and fundamental principles. They are the FEI's constitution and thereby set forth its organization and the attribution of powers, rights and responsibilities among its bodies and stakeholders, including the National Federations, Athletes, Organizing Committees and the International Olympic Committee.

Together with the rules and regulations enacted further to them, the FEI Statutes represent the codification of the principles and norms that govern horsesport. They provide mechanisms for governance, accountability, action, operation and transparency necessary to further its existence and enable its progress, and for ensuring compliance with the Olympic Charter.

The FEI is headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland, the Olympic capital.

## **CHAPTER I      PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES**

### **Article 1. Objectives**

The objectives of the FEI are:

- 1.1** To be the sole authority for all International Events in Dressage, Jumping, Eventing, Driving, Endurance, Vaulting, Reining, Para-Equestrian and any other forms of equestrian Disciplines approved by the General Assembly;
- 1.2** To establish Statutes, General Regulations and Sport Rules for the conduct of International Events in the FEI Equestrian Disciplines, and to co-ordinate and supervise their technical organization;
- 1.3** To enable individual Athletes and teams from different nations to compete in International Events under fair and even conditions;
- 1.4** To preserve and protect the welfare of the horse and the natural environment by establishing appropriate codes of conduct;
- 1.5** To promote the highest standards of organization, judging, stewarding, course designing, veterinary and medication control and anti-doping controls of human athletes and horses at International Events;
- 1.6** To recognize the interests of all the constituencies of equestrianism including National Federations, Athletes, Owners, Organizers, Officials and sponsors, and to foster their harmonious collaboration;
- 1.7** To act as the international representative body for the National Federations and the FEI Equestrian Disciplines;
- 1.8** To promote equestrianism in all its forms and to encourage the development of the FEI Equestrian Disciplines throughout the world;
- 1.9** To promote understanding and co-operation between National Federations, to give them support and to strengthen their authority and prestige;
- 1.10** To encourage instruction in all FEI Equestrian Disciplines and in horsemanship for recreational purposes.

**Article 2. Principles**

- 2.1** The FEI is based on the principle of equality and mutual respect between all National Federations, without regard to race, ethnicity, political opinion or religion.
- 2.2** All National Federations recognize the FEI as the sole authority and governing body for FEI Equestrian Disciplines. The National Federations agree not to become members or recognize or otherwise support any other international organization with a similar purpose except Equestrian Associations recognized by the FEI.
- 2.3** The FEI and the National Federations recognize that each National Federation is the sole authority (besides the FEI itself) for FEI Equestrian Disciplines in the country where it is located.
- 2.4** The FEI is the sole representative of Horsesport at the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee where the FEI promotes the Olympic and Paralympic equestrian ideals.
- 2.5** The FEI is committed to the development of equestrian sport through education and commercial initiatives in the best interest of the sport, and through fundraising to fulfil its objectives.
- 2.6** The National Federations agree to comply with, and be bound by, the Statutes, General Regulations, Sport Rules and any Decision issued by the authorized bodies of the FEI in relation to the conduct of international equestrian Events, all of which shall also bind Organizing Committees, Officials, horse Owners, Persons Responsible, Athletes, team officials and other individuals and bodies involved in FEI Events. National Federations are granted an exclusive license to use, modify, print and distribute as appropriate the documents referred to in this Article, which are FEI property, for the purpose of regulating horse sport within their national territory.
- 2.7** Only those Athletes who belong to a National Federation may take part in FEI Events organized or supervised by another National Federation. All Officials listed as such by the FEI must be members of their respective National Federations.

- 2.8** Candidates for membership to the Bureau and all Standing Committees must be supported by their respective National Federations.

**Article 3. Organization**

- 3.1** The FEI is constituted as follows:

- (i) General Assembly;
- (ii) Bureau;
- (iii) Headquarters;
- (iv) Regional Groups;
- (v) Committees, and
- (vi) FEI Tribunal.

**Article 4. Name and Headquarters**

The International Equestrian Federation (“**Fédération Equestre Internationale**” or “**FEI**”) is an Association established and organized in accordance with Articles 60 et seq. of the Swiss civil code. FEI headquarters are located in Lausanne, Switzerland and may only be transferred to another location following a resolution of the General Assembly.

## **CHAPTER II      MEMBERSHIP**

### **Article 5. Membership**

- 5.1** Membership in the FEI is open to the one national governing body from any country which is effectively in control of or is in a position to effectively control at least the Olympic Equestrian Disciplines and preferably recognized by its National Olympic Committee.
- 5.2** FEI Membership confers upon a National Federation the right to host international equestrian Events under and according to the FEI Statutes, General Regulations and Sport Rules, and the right to attend and vote at the General Assembly.
- 5.3** The General Assembly may grant associate membership status to additional stakeholders of international equestrian sport. The rights and obligations of any such associate members shall be approved by the General Assembly upon proposal by the Bureau. Associate members may not be granted voting rights at the General Assembly.

### **Article 6. Application for Membership**

- 6.1** Application for membership must be sent to the Secretary General by the National Federation according to a process established by the Secretary General and approved by the Bureau.
- 6.2** If the Bureau is satisfied that the applicant meets all requirements to become a member of the FEI, it will submit the application for decision to the next General Assembly.
- 6.3** In exceptional circumstances, the Bureau may grant membership to an applicant but only on a provisional basis until the next General Assembly and without the right to vote.

### **Article 7. Financial Charges**

- 7.1** Upon being accepted as a member of the FEI, a National Federation will be charged an Annual Membership Subscription Fee and any other dues determined by the General Assembly.



- 7.2 National Federations are required to pay their Annual Membership Subscription Fee for the considered Financial Year no later than on the day preceding the General Assembly held in the same Financial Year.

**Article 8. Suspension and Exclusion from Membership**

- 8.1 Any National Federation which has not paid its Annual Membership Subscription Fee by the due date shall be automatically suspended until such fee is paid in full, unless the Bureau decides otherwise.
- 8.2 The Bureau may suspend any National Federation that has failed to pay in full any amount due to the FEI or in connection with FEI activities under the Statutes, a Decision of the General Assembly or any other Sport Rules or General Regulations of the FEI.
- 8.3 The Bureau may suspend a National Federation that has acted in breach of the principles in Article 2, provided it is afforded a right to be heard. The Suspension may be immediate and provisional in the event of material breach.
- 8.4 During a period of Suspension, a suspended National Federation may not attend or be represented at any session or meeting of any body of the FEI. A suspended National Federation may not organize International Events and its members may not take part in International Events organized by the FEI or any other National Federation.
- 8.5 Upon expiry of any defined period of Suspension or upon full payment of any outstanding Financial Charges (including late payment penalties and interest), the suspended National Federation is automatically restored to full membership rights.
- 8.6 The Suspension of a National Federation will be notified to the other National Federations.
- 8.7 A National Federation, which has been suspended for failure to pay its Financial Charges, shall be automatically excluded from the FEI on the first anniversary of its suspension.
- 8.8 The Bureau may suspend or exclude a National Federation for persistent violations of the Statutes, a Decision of the General Assembly, or other Sport Rules or General Regulations of the FEI. In cases other than Suspensions for non-payment of Financial Charges, an opportunity to be heard by the FEI Tribunal shall be

afforded to the relevant National Federation, and any Exclusion shall only become effective upon ratification by the General Assembly.

- 8.9** A National Federation which has been excluded ceases to be a member of the FEI. To regain its membership rights, the excluded National Federation must file a new membership application and may only do so once any past dues have been paid in full.
- 8.10** The Exclusion of a National Federation will be notified to the other National Federations.

**CHAPTER III      GENERAL ASSEMBLY****Article 9. Composition**

- 9.1** The General Assembly of the National Federations is the supreme authority of the FEI.
- 9.2** Each National Federation has a right to participate in the General Assembly and to cast a vote on the Resolutions of the General Assembly. Each National Federation may be represented at the General Assembly by another National Federation. A National Federation may not represent more than two other National Federations at the General Assembly.
- 9.3** To the extent permitted in its Internal Regulations, the Bureau has the right to invite third parties to attend the General Assembly as observers or presenters.

**Article 10. Functions and Powers**

**10.1** The General Assembly has the following functions and powers:

- (i) To approve a Chair of the General Assembly, if required according to Article 15;
- (ii) To elect the Scrutineers proposed by the Chair of the General Assembly;
- (iii) To approve the Annual Report of the Bureau;
- (iv) To approve the annual financial report and accounts and to receive the Auditor's report;
- (v) To approve the membership of any prospective National Federation, or any associate membership;
- (vi) To allocate any National Federation to any Regional Group;
- (vii) To exclude a National Federation from membership or to ratify the Exclusion of a National Federation decided by the Bureau;
- (viii) To recognize Associations of National Federations;
- (ix) To approve the long-term and annual plans;
- (x) To approve or change the Financial Charges of the National Federations;

- (xi) To approve the budget for one or more financial years;
- (xii) To appoint the Auditors;
- (xiii) To approve Equestrian Disciplines;
- (xiv) To approve the Statutes and any amendment thereto;
- (xv) To approve the General Regulations and any amendment thereto;
- (xvi) To approve the Internal Regulations of the Bureau and any amendment thereto;
- (xvii) To approve the Procedural Regulations of the General Assembly and any amendment thereto;
- (xviii) To approve the Sport Rules and any amendment thereto, subject to Article 20.1. (vii);
- (xix) To approve the Internal Regulations of the Audit and Compliance Committee and any amendment thereto;
- (xx) To decide on any item put on the Agenda of the General Assembly;
- (xxi) To elect, when appropriate:
  - (a) The President;
  - (b) The Vice Presidents;
  - (c) The Chairs of the Technical Committees for Veterinary, Dressage, Jumping, Eventing, Driving and Endurance;
  - (d) The Group Chairs;
  - (e) The members of the Nomination Committee;
  - (f) The Chair and members of the Audit and Compliance Committee;
  - (g) The Chair and members of the FEI Tribunal.
- (xxii) To nominate arbitrators to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS);
- (xxiii) To discharge the Bureau and Secretary General of liability for their acts or omissions on an annual basis;
- (xxiv) To decide on the Dissolution of the FEI.

**Article 11. Meetings**

**11.1** The FEI shall hold one ordinary General Assembly every year.

**11.2** The FEI shall hold an additional extraordinary General Assembly at any time:

- (i) At the request of the Bureau;
- (ii) At the written request of at least three Group Chairs acting together; or
- (iii) At the written request of one-fifth of the National Federations acting together.

**11.3** The date and place of all General Assemblies shall be decided by the Bureau.

**11.4** Procedural Regulations of the General Assembly shall be established by the Bureau further to a proposal by the Secretary General for the approval of the General Assembly.

**Article 12. Quorum**

**12.1** For any General Assembly to be validly convened and pass Resolutions, an Absolute Majority of all the National Federations must be present or represented. If such Quorum is not reached, the Bureau may convene another General Assembly with the same Agenda within 30 days, in the same location or in Lausanne, Switzerland. Such General Assembly will be validly convened even if no Quorum is then reached.

**Article 13. Agenda**

**13.1** The Bureau shall establish the Agenda. The Agenda for the annual ordinary General Assembly must include all relevant items listed in Article 10 and items submitted by any National Federation according to the Procedural Regulations of the General Assembly.

**Article 14. Voting Rights**

**14.1** Each National Federation shall have one vote. Each National Federation may also represent other National Federations within the limits set forth at Article 9.2 through Power of Attorney.

- 14.2** A Secret Ballot shall be compulsory for all contested Elections and for the Dissolution of the FEI.
- 14.3** All other Decisions shall be taken by a show of hands, unless the Chair of the General Assembly or at least one quarter of the National Federations present or represented requests a Secret Ballot.
- 14.4** All Resolutions of the General Assembly shall require the Simple Majority of the cast votes, unless these Statutes provide for a Qualified Majority. Abstentions are not counted as cast votes.
- 14.5** Voting by Proxy is not permitted except as provided under Article 9.2.
- 14.6** The President shall have a Casting Vote in the event of a Deadlock.

**Article 15. Chair**

- 15.1** The Chair of the General Assembly shall be the President of the FEI or any other FEI officer or representative of a National Federation as nominated by the President and approved by the General Assembly.
- 15.2** If the President is not present and has not delegated chairmanship, Article 15.1 shall apply to the First Vice President, or in his or her absence to the Second Vice President.
- 15.3** Should none of the above persons be available, the General Assembly shall elect one of the Members of the Bureau to act as Chair of the General Assembly.

**Article 16. Minutes**

- 16.1** Minutes of the General Assembly shall be supervised by the Secretary General and approved by the Chair.
- 16.2** The Minutes must record all Resolutions passed at the General Assembly and where applicable the dates on which they are to come into effect.
- 16.3** Copies of the Minutes shall be made available to the National Federations no later than ten weeks after the General Assembly.

**Article 17. Amendments to the Statutes and General Regulations, and Sport Rules**

**17.1** A Revision of the Statutes or the General Regulations shall occur:

- (i) At the request of the Bureau;
- (ii) At the written request of at least three Group Chairs acting together; or
- (iii) At the written request of one-fifth of the National Federations acting together.

**17.2** Amendments to the Statutes or General Regulations requested by National Federations outside of the scope of a Revision must be supported by the Bureau.

**17.3** Amendments to the Statutes must be approved by a two-third majority of all cast votes. Abstentions are not counted as cast votes.

**17.4** Amendments to the Sport Rules are proposed by:

- (i) The FEI Headquarters in cooperation with the relevant Technical Committee; and/or
- (ii) A National Federation.

**Article 18. Dissolution of the FEI**

**18.1** A Resolution to dissolve the FEI must be approved by a three-quarter majority of all cast votes. Abstentions are not counted as cast votes.

**18.2** Should the FEI be dissolved, its assets shall be distributed among the National Federations after payment of all debts, as decided by the General Assembly.

**CHAPTER IV      BUREAU****Article 19. Composition of the Bureau**

**19.1** The Bureau is composed of:

- (i) The President;
- (ii) The First and Second Vice Presidents;
- (iii) The Chairs of the Technical Committees for Dressage, Jumping, Eventing, Driving, Endurance and Veterinary (Technical Chairs);
- (iv) The Chairs of the Regional Groups (Group Chairs);
- (v) The Chair of the Audit and Compliance Committee, without a vote;
- (vi) The Chair of the Athletes' Committee.

**19.2** Excluding the President and non-voting members, there may not be more than two members from the same National Federation.

**19.3** The General Assembly shall strive to have the Bureau composed of a minimum of 20 percent of women.

**19.4** No individual may simultaneously hold the positions of Group Chair and Technical Chair.

**19.5** Members shall begin their Terms at the close of the General Assembly at which they are elected and remain in office for a period of four years, to conclude at the end of their fourth annual ordinary General Assembly, unless they resign, are dismissed by the General Assembly or cease to be members for any other reason.

**19.6** No Bureau member may serve more than two consecutive full Terms in the same function. A Bureau member does not represent the interests of a National Federation.

**19.7** In the case of a vacancy arising for any reason other than the normal ending of a Term of office, the person elected to fill the vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the original Term. Filling a vacancy for any period of less than three years does not count as a full Term.



**19.8** Membership of the Bureau is honorary and carries no remuneration. Reasonable Expenses incurred while fulfilling the functions of a Bureau member shall be reimbursed by the FEI.

**Article 20. Functions and Powers**

**20.1** The Bureau shall decide on all matters not otherwise reserved to another body of the FEI. Without limitation to the generality of the foregoing, the Bureau shall have the following functions and powers:

- (i) To define the general strategy, business and sport policy of the FEI;
- (ii) To monitor the performance of Management of the FEI Headquarters;
- (iii) To recommend the budget for the approval by the General Assembly;
- (iv) To monitor the implementation of the Resolutions of the General Assembly;
- (v) To propose items for the Agenda of the General Assembly according to Article 13;
- (vi) To propose amendments to the Statutes and General Regulations;
- (vii) To approve the Sport Rules (a) that cannot await the next General Assembly and are required by the IOC and (b) Sport Rules for Series;
- (viii) To consider and, when appropriate, approve proposals of the Standing Committees, including but not limited to the grant of organization rights to International FEI Events;
- (ix) To establish the Regulations governing the internal organization and functioning of the Bureau, Headquarters and Committees further to Article 20.2, and any amendment thereto;
- (x) To appoint eligible Candidates as members of the Technical Committees further to recommendation by the Nomination Committee, including Chairs who are not elected by the General Assembly;
- (xi) To remove members of Standing Committees further to Article 29.12.
- (xii) To approve the appointment of the Secretary General further to Article 22.4;

(xiii) To set deadlines for submission of candidacies to positions on the Bureau and Committees.

**20.2** The Bureau can delegate its function and powers to internal Committees of the Bureau, individual members of the Bureau or third parties, including the Secretary General. To this effect, the Bureau will establish Internal Regulations of the Bureau delineating any such Delegation. Such Internal Regulations shall also reflect the structure, composition, and responsibilities of the professional FEI Management at Headquarters based upon a proposal of the Secretary General. These Internal Regulations are effective once adopted by the Bureau, and whenever amended are submitted at the next ordinary General Assembly for approval.

**20.3** The Bureau shall establish a Sub-Committee that shall act on behalf, and under the authority of the Bureau between meetings of the Bureau.

**20.4** In an Emergency Situation, the Bureau may, by a two-thirds majority of votes cast, pass Resolutions which are normally the prerogatives of the General Assembly. In such cases, the National Federations shall be notified promptly of these measures. If a majority of the National Federations eligible to vote, responding within thirty days of the date of the notice, signifies its disapproval, the measure shall be rescinded if possible.

## **Article 21. Meetings**

**21.1** The Bureau shall meet at least twice a year. Additional meetings of the Bureau may be convened at the request of the President or two-thirds of its members. The Internal Regulations of the Bureau will set out the procedures for convening and holding the meetings of the Bureau.

**21.2** The President shall chair the meetings of the Bureau, or may delegate chairmanship to another Bureau member. If the President is not present and has not delegated chairmanship, Article 15 shall be applied to establish the Bureau meeting Chair in the same manner as it would be applied to the General Assembly.

**21.3** Unless specified otherwise in Article 19, each member of the Bureau shall have one vote. Members of the Bureau cannot vote by Proxy. All matters shall be decided by a show of hands unless two members request a Secret Ballot. The President shall have a Casting Vote in the event of a Deadlock.

- 21.4** The passing of Resolutions by the Bureau shall require the approval of a Simple Majority of the members of the Bureau who are present. Members who abstain from voting will not be counted.
- 21.5** Resolutions of the Bureau may also be passed by correspondence provided that a majority of the members of the Bureau accept such Resolutions and provided that three or more of them do not require a formal Bureau meeting to discuss.
- 21.6** Minutes of all meetings shall be supervised by the Secretary General.
- 21.7** The President may invite to the Bureau one or more experts in a consultative capacity. The Chair of the FEI Tribunal shall be invited to attend meetings.
- 21.8** Bureau meetings may validly be held via videoconference or conference call when appropriate.

## **Article 22. President and Vice Presidents**

- 22.1** The President is responsible for ensuring that the purposes and principles of the FEI are observed and for the general supervision of its activities.
- 22.2** The President represents the FEI, chairs the General Assembly and the Bureau according to Articles 15 and 21, and decides on the timing and Agendas of Bureau meetings.
- 22.3** The President shall maintain close contact with the National Federations and with the various constituencies of the FEI in its relationship with other sports, the IOC and other organizations and individuals as appropriate. The President is the ultimate head of the FEI.
- 22.4** The President nominates the Vice Presidents for Election by the General Assembly according to Article 10.1, and appoints the Secretary General with the approval of the Bureau according to Article 20.1.
- 22.5** The Vice Presidents shall cooperate with the President according to a Delegation of duties established by the President and set forth in the Internal Regulations of the Bureau.
- 22.6** The President and Vice Presidents may attend meetings of all Standing Committees, without a vote.

**Article 23. Technical Chairs, Group Chairs**

- 23.1** The Technical Chairs represent their Committees and thereby the interests of their given Discipline.
- 23.2** The Group Chairs represent their respective Regional Groups and thereby the interests of the National Federations within their Groups.
- 23.3** The Technical Chairs and Group Chairs shall abide by the Internal Regulations of the Bureau.

**Article 24. Election of Bureau Members**

- 24.1** All candidates for Bureau membership must be proposed and have the support of their respective National Federations.
- 24.2** The President shall be elected by a two-thirds majority of votes cast. Abstentions are not counted as cast votes. In the event multiple Ballots are necessary under Article 24.4, a Simple Majority shall be sufficient for Election on the third Ballot, or on the second if only two candidates remain.
- 24.3** All other Bureau members shall be elected by a Simple Majority. Abstentions are not counted as cast votes.
- 24.4** When there are multiple Candidates and none receives the necessary majority, the Candidate with the least number of votes received shall be removed from the list of Candidates and another Ballot shall be held. This procedure shall be repeated until a Candidate receives the necessary majority.
- 24.5** If no Candidate receives the necessary majority for a given position, the Bureau shall nominate one or more alternative Candidates for that position prior to the close of the relevant General Assembly session, unless the position is for Group chairmanship and concerns a Candidate nominated by the applicable Group under Article 24.10, in which case the National Federations in that Group will nominate one or more alternative Candidates through their delegates before the close of the session.
- 24.6** Candidates for the position of First Vice President shall be voting Bureau members proposed by National Federations. The President shall select a Candidate for Election by the General Assembly.

- 24.7** Candidates for the position of Second Vice President shall have proven knowledge and experience of equestrian sport and shall be proposed by National Federations or by the Bureau, and shall not be a non-voting Bureau member. The President shall select a Candidate for Election by the General Assembly. The Second Vice President shall not be from a National Federation that belongs to Groups I, II or IV if the First Vice President belongs to one of these Groups.
- 24.8** Upon Election or re-Election of a President, the Vice Presidents in office must resign. Candidates for vice presidential positions must be proposed for Election during the same General Assembly which elected the President.
- 24.9** Candidates for positions as Technical Chairs shall be proposed by National Federations, Bureau or Technical Committees and shall be evaluated by the Nomination Committee.
- 24.10** Candidates for positions as Group Chairs shall come from a National Federation within their respective Group and shall be evaluated by the Nomination Committee. Thereafter, if a Candidate for chairmanship is nominated by a two-thirds majority of the National Federations within the Group, that Candidate shall be the sole Candidate presented to the General Assembly for Election.
- 24.11** A Group Chair may be removed from chairmanship on the proposal of a National Federation from the respective Group supported by two-thirds of the National Federations in the Group.

**Article 25. Representation of the FEI**

- 25.1** The President shall represent the FEI on all appropriate official occasions. In the absence of the President, the Vice Presidents or the Secretary General may represent the FEI. The President may further authorize any other qualified person to officially represent the FEI.

**CHAPTER V      HEADQUARTERS****Article 26. Secretary General**

**26.1** The Secretary General is the chief executive officer of the FEI and reports to the President, and through the President to the Bureau and the General Assembly. The Secretary General is appointed by the President with the approval of the Bureau, and attends meetings of the Bureau without a vote. The Secretary General may attend any meeting of any FEI body *ex officio*, without a vote.

**26.2** The Secretary General is responsible for the following:

- (i) The management of the general business of the FEI, including financial and commercial issues within the scope of the FEI Budget, in compliance with the Internal Regulations;
- (ii) The leadership of the FEI management and its staff;
- (iii) The implementation of the Policies and Decisions of the Bureau and General Assembly;
- (iv) The preparation and presentation of the long-term and annual plans;
- (v) The preparation and presentation of the budget;
- (vi) The approval of the Calendar of Events;
- (vii) The promotion of good communications and relations between the Headquarters, the National Federations and other relevant organizations;
- (viii) The development of Horsesport with the aim of meeting the requirements of the IOC and of National Federations;
- (ix) The observance of the Statutes, General Regulations, Sport Rules and Procedural Regulations of the General Assembly;
- (x) The preparation of the Annual Report and other publications, and the distribution of all relevant material to National Federations and other appropriate parties;

- (xi) The correspondence of the FEI and the execution of formal documents other than those that need to be executed by the President according to the Internal Regulations;
- (xii) The arrangements for taking the Minutes of all sessions and meetings of the Bureau; and
- (xiii) Other duties as delegated by the Bureau.

**Article 27. Management and Staff**

- 27.1** The structure and organization of the Headquarters and the composition and tasks of the Management shall be provided for in the Internal Regulations of the Bureau further to a proposal of the Secretary General.
- 27.2** The Secretary General, Management and staff shall abide by the Internal Regulations.

**CHAPTER VI      REGIONAL GROUPS****Article 28. Composition and Functions**

**28.1** Regional Groups are established for the following purposes:

- (i) To promote and coordinate the development and the activities of equestrian sport within the Group area;
- (ii) To deal with matters of common interest of the National Federations in their Group and to bring them to the attention of the Bureau and General Assembly; and
- (iii) Through their National Federations, to present the Nomination Committee with Candidates for eligibility to serve on Standing Committees.

**28.2** Regional Chairs report to the Bureau.

**28.3** The General Assembly shall be responsible to decide on any change to the Group composition or the number of Groups based on recommendations of the Bureau.

**28.4** The grouping of National Federations does not affect in any other way their membership of the FEI according to these Statutes.



## **CHAPTER VII      COMMITTEES**

### **Article 29. Standing Committees**

**29.1** Standing Committees are the following:

- (i) Audit and Compliance Committee;
- (ii) Nomination Committee;
- (iii) Technical Committees for:
  - (a) Veterinary
  - (b) Dressage
  - (c) Jumping
  - (d) Eventing
  - (e) Driving
  - (f) Endurance
  - (g) Vaulting
  - (h) Youth
  - (i) Reining
  - (j) Para-Equestrian
  - (k) Medical
- (iv) Athletes' Committee.

**29.2** The Bureau may establish Competition Committees for specific Event Series or Competitions.

**29.3** Standing Committees shall include a minimum of three members including the Chair of the Committee and shall be composed as set forth in the Internal Regulations of the Bureau, to include individuals with appropriate skills and experience.

**29.4** The Standing Committees shall report to the Bureau through their Chair, unless the Chair or his or her deputy is not present, in which case the given Committee shall report through the Secretary General.

- 29.5** No person, except members of the Athletes' Committee, may serve on more than one Standing Committee at the same time.
- 29.6** The Appointment to any Standing Committee is for a Term of four years, is honorary and carries no remuneration. Reasonable Expenses incurred while fulfilling the functions of a member of such Standing Committee shall be met by the FEI.
- 29.7** Unless otherwise specified, any member of a Technical Committee who has served one Term may not serve another Term in the same Committee without a break of at least two years, unless a member becomes Chair. Filling a vacancy for any period of less than three years does not count as a full Term.
- 29.8** Standing Committees shall meet at least once a year. Any further meeting shall be approved by the Secretary General.
- 29.9** The Minutes of all Standing Committee meetings shall be made available to the Bureau and National Federations.
- 29.10** Candidates to any Standing Committee can be proposed by such Standing Committee, the Bureau or National Federations, or, in the case of representatives of Athletes and Organizers, by the relevant FEI-recognized international Association.
- 29.11** All candidates must have the Support of their National Federation.
- 29.12** A Committee member may be removed by the Bureau on the proposal of two-thirds of the members of the given Committee further to Article 20.1 (xi).

**Article 30. Nomination Committee**

- 30.1** The Nomination Committee shall seek and receive nominations from National Federations for all positions on the Bureau, Committees, and the FEI Tribunal, and make recommendations to the Bureau and/or General Assembly, as appropriate based on objective eligibility criteria for each position provided by the Secretary General. It shall report to the Bureau.
- 30.2** The composition and procedures of the Nomination Committee are set forth in the Internal Regulations of the Bureau.

**Article 31. Audit and Compliance Committee**

- 31.1** The Audit and Compliance Committee shall have direct oversight responsibilities for internal control, internal audit, external Auditors and compliance with Statutes, Internal Regulations, Policies and procedures. It shall report to the General Assembly, and to the Bureau through its Chair.
- 31.2** The Audit and Compliance Committee shall be composed of three members including its Chair, who collectively shall have appropriate experience in audit, compliance, finance, management and administration.
- 31.3** Members of the Audit and Compliance Committee shall not serve on other Committees or hold another position within the Bureau or Headquarters, and shall not serve more than two consecutive Terms without a break of two years. Filling a vacancy for any period of less than three years does not count as a full Term.
- 31.4** The Audit and Compliance Committee shall issue Internal Regulations setting forth its organization and processes compatible with established auditing principles and standards, for approval by the General Assembly according to Article 10.1 (xix). These Internal Regulations are effective once adopted by the Audit and Compliance Committee, and whenever amended are submitted at the next ordinary General Assembly for approval.

**Article 32. Technical Committees**

- 32.1** The Technical Committees shall advise Headquarters on the following matters:
- (i) Amendments to the relevant Sport Rules;
  - (ii) Management of International Events in their respective Discipline(s);
  - (iii) Development of their respective Discipline(s);
  - (iv) Appointment, promotion and education of FEI Officials;
  - (v) For Olympic Disciplines, the development of Olympic Solidarity programs;
  - (vi) Any advice requested by Headquarters.

- 32.2** Technical Committees shall include individuals with skills and experience in the following, as appropriate: competition, judging, Event organization, training, and course designing.
- 32.3** The Technical Committees shall prepare every year an annual activity plan to be submitted to the Bureau, and shall report to it annually on progress.
- 32.4** The Technical Committees shall conduct any other tasks assigned to them by the Bureau, as reflected in the Internal Regulations of the Bureau.

**Article 33. Other Committees and Sub-Committees**

- 33.1** The Bureau may establish temporary Committees for particular purposes. The Bureau shall appoint the Chair and members, define the terms of reference and decide the date when any such Committee shall make its report. Any such Committee shall consist of not more than five and not less than three members, including the Chair. A Bureau member who is appointed to any such Committee shall automatically become the Chair of such Committee.
- 33.2** The Bureau may appoint Sub-Committees for the purpose of assisting any of the Standing Committees. Sub-Committees shall be composed of a Chair and two to four other members.
- 33.3** The appointment to any Committee or Sub-Committee is honorary and carries no remuneration. Reasonable expenses incurred while fulfilling the functions of a member of such Committee or Sub-Committee shall be met by the FEI.

**CHAPTER VIII      FEI TRIBUNAL, COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT,  
ETHICS PANEL AND ARBITRATION**

**Article 34. FEI Tribunal**

**34.1** Subject to Articles 34.2 and 34.4, the FEI Tribunal shall decide all cases submitted to it by or through the Secretary General, whether Appeals from or matters not otherwise under the jurisdiction of the Ground Jury or Appeal Committee. These cases may be:

- (i) Any infringement of the Statutes, General Regulations, Sport Rules, or Procedural Regulations of the General Assembly or of violation of the common principles of behavior, fairness, and accepted standards of sportsmanship, whether or not arising during a FEI meeting or Event;
- (ii) Any issue of interpretation of the Statutes, General Regulations, and Sport Rules;
- (iii) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Article, the FEI Tribunal may review and decide upon any matter involving abuse of horses.

**34.2** Civil actions against the FEI shall be brought before the courts of competent jurisdiction in Lausanne, Switzerland, subject to the matters which shall be referred to arbitration under the Statutes.

**34.3** All disputes shall be settled in accordance with Swiss law.

**34.4** Minor cases as determined from time to time by the FEI Tribunal may be administratively processed by the Headquarters as set forth in the FEI Tribunal's Internal Regulations further to Article 34.5. Any person subject to such a process may elect not to accept its resulting measures and may require a Decision on the matter by the FEI Tribunal. Once accepted, administrative Measures are final and not subject to Appeal.

**34.5** The FEI Tribunal shall issue Internal Regulations setting forth its organization and processes compatible with established principles of procedural fairness.

- 34.6** The FEI Tribunal shall be composed of a Chair and a minimum of six other members, each with legal expertise and appropriate knowledge and experience of equestrian sport.
- 34.7** The Chair and members of the FEI Tribunal are elected for Terms of four years and are re-eligible. Any member who leaves the FEI Tribunal further to an election may remain on the Tribunal for a maximum of three months from the election for the sole purpose of finalizing the decisions in cases being heard by panels on which he or she sits.
- 34.8** Candidates for the Chair and membership must have the Support of their National Federation.
- 34.9** The Chair of the FEI Tribunal may advise the Bureau and other bodies of the FEI to the extent it does not represent a conflict of interest.

**Article 35. Arbitration, Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)**

- 35.1** The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) shall judge all Appeals properly submitted to it against Decisions of the FEI Tribunal, as provided in the Statutes and General Regulations.
- 35.2** Any dispute between National Federations or between any National Federation and the FEI, which falls outside the jurisdiction of the FEI Tribunal shall be settled definitively by the CAS in accordance with the CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration.
- 35.3** The parties concerned acknowledge and agree that the seat of the CAS is in Lausanne, Switzerland, and that proceedings before the CAS are governed by Swiss Law.
- 35.4** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration, no evidence discoverable by due diligence during proceedings before the FEI Tribunal may be brought before the CAS on Appeal. If any such evidence is produced after a Decision is issued by the FEI Tribunal, it must first be produced to the FEI Secretary General before all legal remedies are exhausted within the meaning of the CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration. Any such additional evidence produced post-Decision may be the subject of additional proceedings and penalties.

- 35.5** The General Assembly may propose Candidates to the CAS to be included on the CAS list of Arbitrators in accordance with the CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration.

**Article 36. Reprieve**

- 36.1** The President may reduce or remit any Suspension of more than one year upon any person or organization, upon a written request of the interested parties and after consultation with the relevant body of the FEI, if at least half of the period of Suspension has been completed, or five years in case of Suspension for life.

**Article 37. Penalties and Enforcement**

- 37.1** The regime of penalties is set forth in the General Regulations and/or applicable Sport Rules.
- 37.2** All penalties imposed by a competent body of the FEI or the CAS shall be accepted by all National Federations and enforced by the FEI and all National Federations concerned.
- 37.3** All penalties validly imposed by National Federations which relate to participation in International Events and activities under the jurisdiction of the FEI shall be recognized and enforced by the FEI and all National Federations.

**Article 38. Ethics Panel**

- 38.1** Without limitation to the jurisdiction of the FEI Tribunal, Ground Jury, or Appeal Committee, an Ethics Panel may be convened *ad hoc* to deal with breaches of the FEI Code of Ethics or any other matter that may bring the sport into disrepute.
- 38.2** An Ethics Panel is selected by the President and consists of a minimum of three members, to include whenever appropriate one member of the FEI Tribunal. If the circumstances so require, an Ethics Panel may be selected in turn by the First Vice President, Second Vice President or Chair of the FEI Tribunal.
- 38.3** An Ethics Panel investigates and assesses the given situation and recommends a course of action to the President, or other relevant individual in Article 38.2, to include a hearing by an appropriate body if necessary.

**CHAPTER IX      GENERAL****Article 39. Official Languages**

**39.1** English and French shall be the official languages of the FEI.

**39.2** Official documents, Minutes, Agendas, and publications may be in one or both languages.

**39.3** The English text of all documents shall be the authoritative version for legal purposes.

**Article 40. Correspondence**

**40.1** All correspondence to the FEI should be addressed to the FEI Headquarters and always whenever appropriate through the relevant National Federation. When appropriate, correspondence from the FEI Headquarters must be addressed or copied to the relevant National Federations.

**40.2** All correspondence to or from the Headquarters must be in one of the official languages of the FEI or be accompanied by a translation into one of the official languages upon request.

**Article 41. Official Communications, Deadlines**

**41.1** Decisions rendered or notices given by a body of the FEI or its members may be communicated by any appropriate mode of communication, including but not limited to the use of electronic networks, and shall be binding upon delivery.

**41.2** Deadlines for notification of dates, submissions of Agenda items, candidacies, Proxies and other relevant items are set forth in the Procedural Regulations of the General Assembly.

**Article 42. Financial Year**

The financial year shall be from 1 January to 31 December.



**Article 43. Scope, Conflicts of Rules and Omissions**

**43.1** These Statutes, the General Regulations and any Sport Rules or Internal Regulations or Procedural Regulations of the General Assembly promulgated thereunder shall apply to all persons and bodies involved in the activities of the FEI by virtue of their involvement, including without limitation National Federations, Organizing Committees, horse Owners, Athletes, Persons Responsible, FEI Officials and team officials.

**43.2** Should there be any conflict between the Statutes and the General Regulations, Internal Regulations or Procedural Regulations of the General Assembly, the Statutes shall prevail.

**43.3** Should there be any conflict between the General Regulations and other Sport Rules, the General Regulations shall prevail, unless specified otherwise in the Sport Rules.

Should there remain any omission in the Statutes, General Regulations, Internal Regulations or Procedural Regulations of the General Assembly, they shall be interpreted in a manner compatible to the fullest extent with Articles 1 and 2 of these Statutes, and any other relevant provisions of the applicable documents.

**Article 44. Transitory Provisions**

**44.1** These Statutes shall come into force immediately following the General Assembly session at which they are adopted.

**44.2** The terms of members of Committees in existence upon adoption of these Statutes continue unchanged.

**44.3** The members of the former Finance Committee shall serve any remainder of their terms out on the Audit and Compliance Committee. A Chair of the Audit and Compliance Committee shall be elected after adoption of these Statutes.

**44.4** The former Strategic Planning Committee is dissolved.

**44.5** The members of the former Judicial Committee shall serve any remainder of their terms out on the Tribunal, which succeeds the Judicial Committee in its role.

## DEFINITIONS

**Absolute Majority:** Majority (one-half plus one) of the total number of parties entitled to vote, including those absent and those present but not voting.

**Abstention:** Participant in a vote who does not cast a Ballot, casts a blank Ballot or casts a Ballot marked with an intent to abstain.

**Administrative Measures:** Measures taken by the FEI Headquarters further to Policy approved by the relevant FEI body, such as but not limited to sanctions on minor judicial cases administered in accordance to the FEI Tribunal's Internal Regulations.

**Agenda:** A document containing all relevant items to be discussed at a meeting.

**Annual Membership Subscription Fee:** A mandatory financial charge to be paid each year by National Federations to be entitled to full FEI membership rights.

**Annual Report:** A yearly publication depicting the FEI's activities, development and financial statement.

**Appeal:** A proceeding in which a case is brought before a higher body for review of a lower body's judgment for the purpose of convincing the higher body that the lower body's judgment was incorrect.

**Appeal Committee:** Appeal body dealing with Appeals against Decisions of the Ground Jury, protests addressed or referred to it by the Ground Jury, and all cases which are beyond the competence of the Ground Jury.

**Appointment:** The act of designating someone for an office or position.

**Approval:** The formal act of accepting.

**Association:** An organized body of people (or other bodies) who have an interest, activity, or purpose in common.

**Athlete:** Any person taking part in an FEI Event. Such person may be, including but not limited to a rider, a lunges, or a vaulters.

**Auditor:** Qualified accountant who inspects the accounting records and practices of an organization.

**Ballot:** The voting process by which a choice is made between Candidates in an Election.

**Candidate:** A person who stands for Election or Appointment.

**Casting Vote:** A vote given to the President in order to break a Deadlock.

**Committee:** A group of persons officially appointed or elected to perform a function within the FEI.

**Competition:** A competition as defined in the General Regulations.

**Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS):** Impartial and independent arbitration body who shall be the final authority for Appeals against Decisions of the FEI Tribunal or for any dispute between National Federations or between any National Federation and the FEI, which falls outside the jurisdiction of the FEI Tribunal.

**Deadlock:** An equality of votes.

**Decision:** An authoritative determination reached or pronounced after consideration of facts and/or law.

**Delegation:** Assignment of authority and responsibility to another person or body to carry out specific activities.

**Discipline:** The term “Discipline” refers to any Equestrian Discipline approved by the General Assembly, such as Dressage, Jumping, Eventing, Driving, Endurance, Vaulting, Reining, and Para-Equestrian.

**Dissolution:** Termination of existence as a legal entity.

**Election:** Formal process by which voters make their choice on a Candidate for office.

**Eligibility:** Qualified or entitled to be chosen.

**Emergency Situation:** A serious situation or occurrence that happens unexpectedly and clearly requires immediate action.

**Event Series:** A number of competitions held successively at different Events and the results of which lead to a final classification or qualify horses and/or Athletes for a final Event or Competition or prize.

**Event:** An event as defined in the General Regulations.

**Ex officio:** By virtue of an office or position.

**Exclusion:** The act of forcing out someone or a body.

**Expenses:** Charges and attendant Expenses such as but not limited to meals, lodging or transportation Expenses incurred while fulfilling a function for the FEI.

**FEI Budget:** An itemized forecast of the FEI's income and expenses expected for one or more financial years.

**FEI Tribunal:** Highest judicial body within the FEI to decide on cases whether appeals from or matters not otherwise under the jurisdiction of the Ground Jury or Appeal Committee.

**Financial Year:** A 12-month period from 1 January until 31 December used for accounting purposes.

**General Assembly:** The supreme authority of the FEI in which each National Federation is represented and has one vote.

**General Regulations:** The General Regulations govern the conduct of all International equestrian Events organized by National Federations or by or on behalf of the FEI.

**Ground Jury:** Competent authority to deal with all protests and reports which relate to anything occurring during or in direct connection with an Event and are presented within the period of jurisdiction the Ground Jury as defined in the General Regulations.

**Headquarters:** Seat of the FEI where FEI Management and staff are located.

**Horsesport:** All Equestrian Disciplines governed and approved by the FEI.

**Internal Regulations:** Written document setting out the delegation of the functions and powers of a body of the FEI.

**International Event:** An Event defined as such in the General Regulations.

**International Olympic Committee (IOC):** International non-governmental and non-profit organization responsible to supervise the organization of the Olympic Games.

**Management:** The professional management team including the Secretary General and those appointed by the Secretary General to lead the FEI staff.

**Minutes:** Official record of the proceedings of a meeting.

**National Event:** An Event defined as such in the General Regulations.

**National Federation:** The one national governing body from any country which is effectively in control of or is in a position to effectively control at least the Olympic Equestrian Disciplines and preferably recognized by its National Olympic Committee and approved by the General Assembly of the FEI.

**Official:** A person appointed by the FEI or by an Organizing Committee and/or National Federation to perform a specifically defined officiating duty at an FEI Event.

**Organizer, Organizing Committee:** Any organization, group, society, body, or person which is recognized by the applicable National Federation and held to be responsible for the management of any Event.

**Owner:** Person or entity having a property interest in whole or in part of one or more horses.

**Person Responsible:** Person who has legal responsibility for a horse as defined in the General Regulations.

**Policy:** A required process or procedure within the FEI.

**Power of Attorney (or Proxy):** A written instrument containing the authorization to act for another.

**Procedural Regulations of the General Assembly:** Regulations governing the practical aspects of convening and holding a General Assembly and of voting on resolutions brought before it.

**Qualified Majority:** two-thirds majority of those taking part in the vote, not counting abstentions.

**Quorum:** Minimum number of parties to be present or represented for any assembly to be validly convened and pass Resolutions.

**Regional Group:** Any number of National Federations considered as a regional unit in an identifiable geographic area and duly approved by the General Assembly.

**Resolution:** A formal expression of opinion, will, or intention voted either by a relevant body such as but not limited to the General Assembly or by the Bureau.

**Revision:** The process of comprehensive review of a document which includes consultation with stakeholders through circulation of a draft of the entire document for comment.

**Scrutineer:** A Person proposed by the Chair of the General Assembly and elected by the General Assembly to observe the voting and counting of the votes to ensure that the process is conducted properly.

**Secret Ballot:** A voting process that ensures the anonymity of the voting parties.

**Secretary General:** Chief executive of the FEI who reports to the President and through

the President to the Bureau and the General Assembly.

**Simple Majority:** Majority (one-half plus one) of those taking part in the vote, not counting abstentions.

**Sport Rules:** Principles and set of norms including but not limited to Rules for the Equestrian Disciplines, Veterinary Regulations, Equine Anti-Doping and Medication Control Rules, Anti-Doping Rules for Human Athletes, Olympic Regulations.

**Standing Committee:** A Committee specifically established under these Statutes.

**Statutes:** Written document forming the legal constitution of the FEI by defining its purpose(s), principles, and core governance structure through attribution of rights and responsibilities among its organs.

**Sub-Committee:** A Committee forming a subdivision of a primary body from which its responsibility and authority derive.

**Support:** An affirmative expression of endorsement or approval, such as for a candidature or a regulatory change.

**Suspension:** A temporary removal of rights otherwise granted to a given entity or person.

**Technical Committee:** A group of persons officially appointed or elected to perform a function for a Committee responsible for an Equestrian Discipline.

**Term:** The length of time a given individual may hold a certain office or position.

**ANNEX I****PROCEDURAL REGULATIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY****1. Meetings**

- 1.1 The notice convening a General Assembly shall be provided to all National Federations at least sixteen weeks before the contemplated date of the General Assembly.

**2. Agenda**

- 2.1 Items which a National Federation wish to put on the agenda for the annual General Assembly must be provided to the Secretary General at least twelve weeks before the date of the General Assembly, unless a later date is specified in writing by the Secretary General.
- 2.2 The agenda and available supporting documents shall be provided to all National Federations no later than four weeks before the General Assembly.

**3. Composition of the General Assembly**

- 3.1 Each National Federation may be represented by two delegates, but each delegation has only one vote.
- 3.2 A National Federation which is unable to send delegates may nominate the delegation from another National Federation to act as its Proxy. No delegation may hold more than two Proxy votes.
- 3.3 In order to exercise its right to vote, each National Federation must notify the Secretary General of the names of its delegates or the National Federation and person nominated as its Proxy, in a written declaration signed by its President or Secretary General, not later than 48 hours before the start of a General Assembly.
- 3.4 No delegation may exercise, in any event, more than three voting rights.

#### **4. Amendments to the Statutes and General Regulations**

- 4.1 Proposals for amendments from National Federations must reach the Secretary General by 15 September of the year preceding the year in which the Statutes and/or General Regulations are to be revised, unless a later date is specified in writing by the Secretary General.
- 4.2 All National Federations must be given at least six weeks to review a draft of the revised Statutes and/or General Regulations and propose any amendments thereto. The final draft must be provided to the National Federations no later than four weeks before the General Assembly.

#### **5. Amendments to the Sport Rules**

- 5.1 Proposals for amendments from National Federations must reach the Secretary General before the meeting of the relevant Technical Committee prior to the General Assembly at which such proposals shall be presented for approval, unless a different date is specified in writing by the Secretary General. The dates of Technical Committee meetings shall be made available to National Federations at least four weeks in advance of a given meeting.
- 5.2 All National Federations must be given at least six weeks to review a draft of the revised Sport Rules or proposed modifications and propose any amendments thereto. The final draft must be sent to the National Federations no later than four weeks before the General Assembly.

#### **6. Election of Bureau Members**

- 6.1 Candidacies for positions on the Bureau must reach the Secretary General by a date communicated by the Secretary General. National Federations shall be notified of the list of candidates at least four weeks prior to the relevant General

Assembly session. Any unforeseen changes to the list thereafter must be immediately notified to National Federations.

## **7. Standing Committees**

- 7.1 Candidates must be proposed during the election year by a date set by the Secretary General but not later than 6 months prior the General Assembly. At the beginning of the year, the Secretary General will inform the National Federations and the relevant FEI-recognized associations of the positions on the Standing Committees that are up for election or appointment.