



# STATUTES

24<sup>th</sup> edition, effective 20 November 2018

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## INTRODUCTION

These Statutes reflect the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI)'s purposes, objectives, core values and fundamental principles. The Statutes are the FEI's constitution and thereby set forth its organisation and the attribution of powers, rights and responsibilities among its bodies and stakeholders, including but not limited to National Federations, Athletes, Organising Committees, Standing Committees, FEI Tribunal, the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee.

Together with the rules and regulations enacted further to them, the FEI Statutes represent the codification of the principles and norms that govern Equestrian Sport. 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 Sport approved by the General Assembly (the “Equestrian Disciplines”);
- 1.2. To establish Statutes, General Regulations and Sport Rules for the conduct of International Events in the Equestrian Disciplines, and to co-ordinate and supervise their technical organisation;
- 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 organisation, judging, stewarding, course designing, veterinary and medication control and anti-doping controls of human Athletes and Horses at International Events;
- 1.6. To recognise the interests of all the constituencies of equestrianism including but not limited to National Federations, Athletes, Owners, Organisers, Officials and sponsors, and to foster their harmonious collaboration;
- 1.7. To act as the international representative body for the National Federations and the Equestrian Disciplines;
- 1.8. To promote equestrianism in all its forms and to encourage the development of the 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 Equestrian Disciplines and in horsemanship for recreational purposes.

## Article 2 - Principles

- 2.1. FEI is based on the principle of equality and mutual respect between all National Federations, without regard to race, sex, sexual orientation, language, ethnicity, political opinion or other opinion, national or social origin, religion, property, birth or other status.
- 2.2. The FEI shall encourage and support the promotion of gender equality in sport at all levels and in all structures with a view to implementing the principle of equality of men and women.
- 2.3. The FEI is committed to promoting a safe sporting environment and therefore all forms of harassment and abuse are prohibited and will not be tolerated by the FEI.
- 2.4. All National Federations recognise the FEI as the sole authority and governing body for Equestrian Disciplines. The National Federations agree not to become members or recognise or otherwise support any other international organisation with a similar purpose except those recognised by the FEI.
- 2.5. The FEI and the National Federations recognise that each National Federation is the sole authority (besides the FEI itself) for Equestrian Disciplines in the country where it is located.
- 2.6. The FEI is the sole representative of equestrianism and Equestrian Sport at the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee where the FEI promotes the Olympic and Paralympic equestrian ideals.
- 2.7. 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.
- 2.8. It is a condition of membership that National Federations comply with, and are bound by the FEI Rules and Regulations including but not limited to the Statutes, General Regulations, Sport Rules (which include the FEI Human and Equine Anti-Doping Rules) and any Decision issued by the authorised bodies of the FEI in relation to the conduct of international equestrian Events, all of which shall also bind Organising Committees, Officials, Horse Owners, Persons Responsible, Athletes, team officials and other individuals and bodies involved in FEI Events. In addition, by virtue of accepting an accreditation to an FEI Event, such person agrees to be bound by the FEI Rules and Regulations. 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 Equestrian Sport within their national territory.

- 2.9.** Only those Athletes who belong to a National Federation may take part in FEI Events organised or supervised by another National Federation. All Officials listed as such by the FEI must be members of their respective National Federations.
- 2.10.** Candidates for membership to the Board and all Standing Committees must be Supported by their respective National Federations subject to Article 24.1.
- 2.11.** The FEI and the National Federations encourage and support the promotion and implementation of ethics and of the basic principles of good governance (including but not limited to the IOC Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance of the Olympic and Sports Movement) in equestrian sport and in their organisations.

### **Article 3 – Organisation**

The FEI is constituted as follows:

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

### **Article 4 – Name and Headquarters**

The International Equestrian Federation (“Fédération Equestre Internationale” or “FEI”) is an Association established and organised in accordance with Articles 60 et seq. of the Swiss civil code. The FEI Headquarters are located in Lausanne, Switzerland in the building specifically entitled the HM King Hussein I Building, located at Chemin de la Joliette 8, 1006 (the “HM King Hussein I Building”). The HM King Hussein I Building was gifted outright to the FEI, by letters dated 12 December 2007 and 16 September 2008 from HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, with the objective that it be used to advance the orderly growth of equestrian sport worldwide by promoting, regulating, and governing humane and sportsmanlike international competition in the traditional Equestrian Disciplines and by helping those Disciplines to evolve in ways that enhance their attractiveness both for the participants and the public, while respecting and furthering the ideals and principles of horsemanship. The HM King Hussein I Building must always house the offices of FEI Headquarters and cannot be sold, leased in an amount that prevents it from being the sole location of FEI Headquarters’ offices, or otherwise conveyed in its entirety unless a Resolution of the General Assembly achieved by at least a two-thirds (2/3) majority of all cast votes decides otherwise.

## 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 supported by its National Olympic Committee.
- 5.2. FEI Membership confers upon a National Federation the right to host and to participate in international equestrian Events under and according to the FEI Rules and Regulations, and the right to attend and vote at a 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 Board.
- 6.2. If the Board 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 Board 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 Board decides otherwise.
- 8.2. The Board 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 FEI Rules and Regulations.
- 8.3. The Board 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 nor may it organise International Events. In addition, its members may not take part in International Events organised by the FEI or any other National Federation unless otherwise approved by the Board.
- 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 Board may suspend or exclude a National Federation for persistent violations of the Statutes, a Decision of the General Assembly, or any FEI Rules and Regulations. 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 any General Assembly and to cast a vote on the Resolutions of the General Assembly. Each National Federation may be represented at any General Assembly by another National Federation. A National Federation may not represent more than two (2) other National Federations at the General Assembly.
- 9.3. To the extent permitted in the Internal Regulations of the FEI, the Board has the right to invite third parties to attend the General Assembly as observers or presenters.

## Article 10 – Functions and Powers

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 Board;
- 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;
- vi. To allocate any National Federation to any Regional Group;
- vii. To suspend or exclude a National Federation from membership or to ratify the Suspension or Exclusion of a National Federation decided by the Board;
- viii. To recognize and if appropriate suspend or exclude Continental Associations;
- 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 (1) or more financial years;
- xii. To appoint the Auditors;
- xiii. To approve or remove an Equestrian Discipline upon the recommendation of the Board;
- 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 FEI and any amendment thereto;
- xvii. To approve the Procedural Regulations of a 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 a 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 Regional Group Chairs (Group Chairs);
  - e) The Regional Group Deputy Chairs;
  - f) The members of the Nominations Committee;
  - g) The Chair and members of the Audit and Compliance Committee;
  - h) The Chair and members of the FEI Tribunal.
- xxii. To remove, if appropriate, any person elected above under Article 10.1 (xxi);
- xxiii. To ratify a Decision of the Board to suspend or remove an office holder elected by the General Assembly pursuant to Article 20.1 xiii;
- xxiv. To approve, when appropriate, the members of the FEI Solidarity Committee;
- xxv. To nominate arbitrators to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS);
- xxvi. To discharge the Board and Secretary General of liability for their acts or omissions on an annual basis;

xxvii. To decide on the Dissolution of the FEI.

## **Article 11. – Meetings**

11.1. The FEI shall hold one (1) 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 Board;
- ii. At the written request of at least three (3) Group Chairs acting together; or
- iii. At the written request of one-fifth (1/5) of the National Federations acting together.

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

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

## **Article 12 – Quorum**

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 Board may convene another General Assembly with the same Agenda within thirty (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**

The Board 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 a General Assembly.

## **Article 14 – Voting Rights**

14.1. Each National Federation shall have one (1) vote. Each National Federation may also represent other National Federations within the limits set forth at Article 9.2 through a Power of Attorney. FEI Board Members do not have a vote and may not represent a National Federation.

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 (1/4) 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, the Board shall appoint one of the Vice Presidents to Chair the General Assembly.
- 15.3. Should none of the above persons be available, the General Assembly shall elect one (1) of the Members of the Board to act as Chair of the General Assembly.

### **Article 16 – Minutes**

- 16.1. Minutes of any General Assembly shall be supervised by the Secretary General or his/ her designee and approved by the Chair.
- 16.2. The Minutes must record all Resolutions passed at a 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 (10) weeks after a General Assembly.

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

- 17.1. A Revision of the Statutes and/or the General Regulations shall occur:
- i. At the request of the Board;
  - ii. At the written request of at least three (3) Group Chairs acting together; or
  - iii. At the written request of one-fifth (1/5) 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 Board.

17.3. Amendments to the Statutes must be approved by a two-third (2/3) majority of all cast votes. Abstentions are not counted as cast votes.

17.4. Amendments to the Sport Rules are proposed by:

- i. FEI Headquarters with the Support of the relevant Technical Committee through the Chair; and/or
- ii. A National Federation.

17.5. The FEI shall organise an annual Sports Forum to be held in Lausanne, unless otherwise agreed by the Board and on a date to be approved by the Board. The Board shall establish the Agenda. The Sports Forum shall provide an opportunity for all FEI stakeholders to participate and discuss any items on the Agenda, including proposals for rule changes.

## **Article 18 – Dissolution of the FEI**

18.1. A Resolution to dissolve the FEI must be approved by a three-quarter (3/4) 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 – BOARD**

### **Article 19 – Composition of the Board**

19.1. The Board is composed of:

- i. The President;
- ii. The two Vice Presidents;
- iii. The Chairs of the Technical Committees for Dressage, Jumping, Eventing, Driving, Endurance and Veterinary (Technical Chairs);
- iv. One (1) Chair of each of the Regional Groups III to IX and two (2) Chairs for the EEF Regional Group;
- v. The Chair of the Audit and Compliance Committee, without a vote;
- vi. The Chair of the Athletes' Committee.

19.2. Excluding the President, the Chair of the Athletes' Committee, and non-voting members, there may not be more than two (2) members from the same National Federation.

19.3. Intentionally omitted.

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 (4) 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.** A Board member may serve a maximum of three (3) full Terms before a compulsory break of at least four (4) years.
- After such break the Board member may serve either:
- One (1) additional full Term in a position that he/she has held before; or
  - Three (3) additional full Terms in a different position that he/she has held before.
- The requirement to take a minimum 4 year break does not apply if a Board member is elected President.
- The President can only serve a maximum of three (3) full Terms as President.
- 19.7.** A Board member does not represent the interests of a National Federation and therefore may never vote on behalf of a National Federation either by Proxy or otherwise.
- 19.8.** 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 (3) years does not count as a full Term.
- 19.9.** The President may be remunerated, as provided under Article 20.1 (xiv).
- 19.10.** Except as provided under Article 19.8, membership of the Board is honorary and carries no remuneration. Reasonable Expenses incurred while fulfilling the functions of a Board member shall be reimbursed by the FEI.
- 19.11.** In the event a Board member is unable to complete a Term, the Board seat will remain vacant until the next General Assembly at which elections can be held. During such time or in case of unavoidable absence of the Chair, the Deputy Chair shall represent the interests of the Group or Committee including attendance at FEI Board meetings. Under such circumstances, only the Group Deputy Chair shall have the right to vote.

## **Article 20 – Functions and Powers**

- 20.1.** The Board shall decide on all matters not otherwise reserved to another body of the FEI. Without limitation to the generality of the foregoing, the Board shall have the following functions and powers:
- i. To define the general strategy, business and sport policy of the FEI;

- ii. To monitor and assess the performance of the Headquarters against goals established together with the Secretary General and the President;
- 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, the IPC and/or their Regional Organisations 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 organisation rights to International FEI Events;
- ix. To establish the Regulations governing the internal organisation and functioning of the Board, 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 Nominations Committee including Chairs who are not elected by the General Assembly;
- xi. To remove members of Standing Committees further to Article 31.12;
- xii. To remove members of the Board further to Article 24.15;
- xiii. To suspend, provisionally suspend and/or remove any FEI elected office holder in cases of (including allegations of) serious misconduct such as, but not limited to, violation of FEI Code of Ethics, FEI Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions, FEI Code of the Welfare of the Horse, FEI Safeguarding Policy against Harassment and Abuse, acts defined as criminal by the relevant national law, fraud of any kind, and violence. Any Decision taken pursuant to this article must be taken by Qualified Majority;
- xiv. To approve the appointment of the Secretary General further to Article 22.4;
- xv. To approve the remuneration of the President, if applicable;
- xvi. To appoint and remove the members of the Equine Prohibited Substances List Group further to the recommendations of the Veterinary Committee;
- xvii. To set deadlines for submission of candidacies to positions on the Board and Committees;
- xviii. To recommend the approval and removal of an Equestrian Discipline.

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

**20.3.** In an Emergency Situation, the Board may, by a two-thirds (2/3) 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 (30) days of the date of the notice, signifies its disapproval, the measure shall be rescinded if possible.

## **Article 21 - Meetings**

- 21.1. The Board shall meet at least twice a year. Additional meetings of the Board may be convened at the request of the President or two-thirds (2/3) of its members. The Internal Regulations of the FEI will set out the procedures for convening and holding the meetings of the Board.
- 21.2. The President shall chair the meetings of the Board, or may delegate chairmanship to another Board member. If the President is not present and has not delegated chairmanship, Article 15 shall apply to establish the Board 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 Board shall have one (1) vote. Members of the Board cannot vote by Proxy. All matters shall be decided by a show of hands or verbal votes unless two (2) 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 Board shall require the approval of a Simple Majority of the members of the Board who are present. Members who abstain from voting will not be counted.
- 21.5. Resolutions of the Board may also be passed by correspondence provided that a majority of the members of the Board accept such Resolutions and provided that three (3) or more of them do not require a formal Board meeting to discuss.
- 21.6. Minutes of all meetings shall be supervised by the Secretary General.
- 21.7. The President may invite to the Board one (1) or more experts in a consultative capacity. The Chair of the FEI Tribunal may be invited to attend meetings, without a vote.
- 21.8. Board meetings may validly be held via videoconference or conference call when appropriate. Those attending a videoconference or conference call are deemed to be present.

## **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 Board according to Articles 15 and 21, and decides on the timing and Agendas of Board 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, the IPC and other organisations 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 Board 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 FEI.
- 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 FEI.

### **Article 24 – Election of Board Members**

- 24.1. All candidates for Board membership must be proposed by and have the Support of their respective National Federations, with the exception of the Chair of the Athletes' Committee.
- 24.2. The President shall be elected by a two-thirds (2/3) 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 (2) Candidates remain.
- 24.3. All other Board 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 Board shall nominate one (1) 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 (1) or more alternative Candidates through their delegates before the close of the session.

- 24.6.** At least one (1) of the Candidates for Vice President shall be a voting Board member
- 24.7.** The President shall propose the Candidates for Vice Presidents for Election by the General Assembly.
- 24.8.** If a Candidate for the position of Vice President is not a voting Board member he/she shall have proven knowledge and experience of Equestrian Sport and shall be Supported by his/her National Federation.
- 24.9.** One (1) Vice President shall be from a National Federation that belongs to EEF Regional Group or Regional Group IV and the other shall be from a National Federation that belongs to Regional Groups III, V, VI, VII, VIII or IX
- 24.10.** 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.”
- 24.11.** Candidates for positions as Technical Chairs shall be proposed by National Federations, Board or Technical Committees and shall be evaluated by the Nominations Committee.
- 24.12.** Candidates for positions as Group Chairs shall come from a National Federation within their respective Regional Group and shall be evaluated by the Nominations Committee. Thereafter, if a Candidate for chairmanship is nominated by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the National Federations within the Group, that Candidate shall be the sole Candidate presented to the General Assembly for Election. In the event multiple Ballots are necessary under Article 24.4, a Simple Majority shall be sufficient for Election on the second Ballot between the two (2) remaining Candidates.
- 24.13.** EEF Regional Group is entitled to two (2) representatives on the Board. The EEF President and EEF 1st Vice President shall be the sole Candidates presented to the General Assembly for Election for the position of EEF Regional Group Chairs on the Board provided that they meet the relevant FEI eligibility requirements.
- 24.14.** A Group Chair may be removed from chairmanship on the proposal of a National Federation from the respective Group Supported by two-thirds (2/3) of the National Federations in the Group.

**24.15.** A Board member other than the President may be removed from the Board in the event he or she is unavailable for three (3) consecutive Board meetings.

## **Article 25 – Representation of the FEI**

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 authorise any other qualified persons to officially represent the FEI.

## **CHAPTER V – EXECUTIVE BOARD**

### **Article 26 – Composition of the Executive Board**

**26.1.** The Executive Board is composed of:

- i. The President;
- ii. The two Vice Presidents;
- iii. One (1) Board member from and representing EEF Regional Group or Regional Group IV, proposed by the President and elected by the Board ;
- iv. One (1) Board member from and **representing** Groups III, V, VI, VII, VIII, or IX, proposed by the President and elected by the Board ;
- v. The Chair of the Athletes' Committee; and
- vi. The Secretary General, without a vote.

**26.2.** The President and Secretary General acting together may invite additional outside experts to present and/or contribute to meetings of the Executive Board.

**26.3.** The Secretary General may also invite relevant members of Headquarters to meetings.

**26.4.** Upon Election or re-Election of a President, the Executive Board Members in office must resign.

### **Article 27 – The Role of the Executive Board**

**27.1.** The role of the Executive Board shall be to: (i) lead the FEI through the implementation of Decisions adopted and/or Supported by the Board; (ii) to fulfil any mandate given to it by the Board; and (iii) to make necessary key strategy and other Decisions between meetings of the Board. The Executive Board shall interface with FEI Headquarters through the office of the Secretary General.

**27.2.** The Executive Board keeps the Board informed of its work and relevant Decisions of Headquarters through the office of the Secretary General.

## CHAPTER VI – HEADQUARTERS

### Article 28 – Secretary General

- 28.1.** The Secretary General is the Chief Executive Officer of the FEI and reports to the President, and through the President to the Executive Board, the Board and the General Assembly. The Secretary General is appointed by the President with the approval of the Board, and attends meetings of the Board without a vote. The Secretary General may attend any meeting of any FEI body ex officio, without a vote.
- 28.2.** 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 of the FEI;
  - ii. The leadership of the Headquarters;
  - iii. The implementation of the Policies and Decisions of the Board 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 and if appropriate the removal of Competition(s) and/or Event(s) from the Calendar;
  - vii. The annulment of ranking points for specific Competitions and/or Events and under specific circumstances;
  - viii. The promotion of good communications and relations between the Headquarters, the National Federations and other relevant organisations;
  - ix. The development of Equestrian Sport with the aim of meeting the requirements of the IOC, IPC and National Federations;
  - x. The observance of the FEI Rules and Regulations;
  - xi. The preparation of the Annual Report and other publications, and the distribution of all relevant material to National Federations and other appropriate parties;
  - xii. 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;
  - xiii. The arrangements for taking the Minutes of all sessions and meetings of the Board;
  - xiv. Other duties as delegated by the Executive Board and/or the Board.

### Article 29 – Headquarters

- 29.1.** The structure and organisation of the Headquarters and the composition and tasks of the management shall be provided for in the Internal Regulations of the FEI further to a proposal of the Secretary General.
- 29.2.** The Secretary General, management and staff shall abide by the Internal Regulations of the FEI.

## CHAPTER VII – REGIONAL GROUPS

### Article 30 – Composition and Functions

30.1. 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 Board and General Assembly; and
- iii. Through their National Federations, to present the Nominations Committee with eligible Candidates for election and/or appointment to Standing Committees.

30.2. Group Chairs report to the Board.

30.3. 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 Board.

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

## CHAPTER VIII – COMMITTEES

### Article 31 – Standing Committees

31.1. Standing Committees are the following:

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



- 31.2.** The Board may establish Competition Committees for specific Event Series or Competitions.
- 31.3.** Standing Committees shall include a minimum of three (3) members including the Chair of the Committee and shall be composed as set forth in the Internal Regulations of the FEI, to include individuals with appropriate skills and experience.
- 31.4.** The Standing Committees shall report to the Board through their Chair, unless the Chair or his/her deputy is not present, in which case the given Committee shall report through the Secretary General.
- 31.5.** No person, except members of the Athletes' Committee, may serve on more than one (1) Standing Committee at the same time. Members of the Athletes' Committee may not serve on more than two (2) Standing Committees at the same time.
- 31.6.** Unless otherwise specified, the Appointment to any Standing Committee is for a Term of four (4) 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.
- 31.7.** Unless otherwise specified, any member of a Technical Committee who has served one (1) Term may not serve another Term in the same Committee without a break of at least two (2) years, unless the member becomes Chair. Filling a vacancy for any period of less than three (3) years does not count as a full Term. Any Chair of a Technical Committee who has served two (2) Terms (respectively three (3) Terms for Technical Chairs who are Board Members) may not serve another Term in the same Committee without a break of at least four (4) years.
- 31.8.** Standing Committees shall meet at least once a year. Any further meeting shall be approved by the Secretary General.
- 31.9.** The Minutes of all Standing Committee meetings shall be made available to the Board and National Federations.
- 31.10.** Candidates to any Standing Committee can be proposed by such Standing Committee, the Board, National Federations or any other person and/or entity.
- 31.11.** All Candidates, except the Chair of the Athletes' Committee and the Athletes' representatives of the Technical Committees, must have the Support of their National Federation.”
- 31.12.** A Committee member may be removed by the Board either (i) on the proposal of two-third (2/3) of the members of the given Committee further to Article 20.1 (xi) or (ii) by a two-third (2/3) majority of the Board.

## **Article 32 – Nominations Committee**

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

## **Article 33 – Audit and Compliance Committee**

- 33.1.** The Audit and Compliance Committee shall have direct oversight responsibilities for internal control, internal audit, external Auditors and compliance with FEI Rules and Regulations, Policies and procedures. It shall report to the General Assembly, and to the Board through its Chair.
- 33.2.** The Audit and Compliance Committee shall be composed of three (3) members including its Chair, who collectively shall have appropriate experience in audit, compliance, finance, management and administration.
- 33.3.** Members of the Audit and Compliance Committee shall not serve on other Committees or hold another position within the Board or Headquarters, and shall not serve more than two (2) consecutive Terms without a break of two (2) years. Filling a vacancy for any period of less than three (3) years does not count as a full Term.
- 33.4.** The Audit and Compliance Committee shall issue Internal Regulations setting forth its organisation 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 34 – Technical Committees**

- 34.1.** 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.
- 34.2.** Technical Committees shall include individuals with skills and experience in the following, as appropriate: competition, judging, Event organisation, training, and course designing.

- 34.3.** The Technical Committees shall in cooperation with Headquarters prepare every year an annual activity plan to be submitted to the Board, and shall report to it annually on progress.
- 34.4.** The Technical Committees shall conduct any other tasks assigned to them by the Board, as reflected in the Internal Regulations of the FEI.

### **Article 35 – FEI Solidarity Committee**

The FEI Solidarity Committee is constituted to further the goals and objectives of FEI Solidarity as per Chapter VIII of these Statutes. The appointment of any person to the FEI Solidarity Committee is for a Term of one (1) year. Members of the FEI Solidarity Committee may serve a maximum of four (4) Terms of one (1) year each. The President shall be the Chair of the FEI Solidarity Committee.

### **Article 36 – Other Committees and Sub-Committees**

- 36.1.** The Board may establish temporary Committees for particular purposes. The Board 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 (5) and not less than three (3) members, including the Chair. A Board member who is appointed to any such Committee shall automatically become the Chair of such Committee.
- 36.2.** The Board may appoint Sub-Committees for the purpose of assisting any of the Standing Committees. Sub-Committees shall be composed of a Chair and two (2) to four (4) other members.
- 36.3.** 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 IX – FEI SOLIDARITY**

### **Article 37 – Aim and Objectives of FEI Solidarity**

- 37.1.** The aim of FEI Solidarity is to organise assistance to National Federations, in particular those which have the greatest need. This assistance takes the form of programmes elaborated jointly by the FEI and the National Federations.
- 37.2.** The objectives of the programmes adopted by FEI Solidarity are:
- i. to promote the Fundamental Principles of Equestrian Sport;
  - ii. to assist the NFs in the preparation of their Athletes and Teams for their participation in FEI Competitions;
  - iii. to develop the technical sports knowledge of Athletes and coaches;



- iv. to improve the technical level of Athletes and coaches in cooperation with NFs, including through scholarships;
- v. to train sports administrators;
- vi. to collaborate with organisations and entities pursuing such objectives, particularly through FEI education and the propagation of Equestrian Sport;
- vii. to create, where needed, simple, functional and economical Equestrian Sports facilities in cooperation with national or international bodies;
- viii. to support the organisation of competitions at national, regional and continental level under the authority or patronage of the NFs and to assist the NFs in the organisation, preparation and participation of their delegations in regional and continental Games;
- ix. to encourage joint bilateral or multilateral cooperation programmes among NFs;
- x. to urge governments and international organisations to include Equestrian Sport in official development assistance.

Such programmes are administered by the FEI Solidarity Committee.

## **CHAPTER X – FEI TRIBUNAL, COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT, AND ETHICS PANEL**

### **Article 38 – FEI Tribunal**

- 38.1.** Subject to Articles 38.2 and 38.4, 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 a General Assembly or of violation of the common principles of behaviour, fairness, and accepted standards of sportsmanship, whether or not arising during an 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.
- 38.2.** 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.
- 38.3.** All disputes shall be settled in accordance with Swiss law.
- 38.4.** Minor cases as determined from time to time by the FEI Tribunal may be administratively processed by the Headquarters as set forth in the Internal Regulations of the FEI Tribunal. 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.



- 38.5.** The FEI Tribunal shall issue Internal Regulations setting forth its organisation and processes compatible with established principles of procedural fairness.
- 38.6.** The FEI Tribunal shall be composed of a Chair and a minimum of six (6) other members, each with legal expertise and appropriate knowledge and experience of Equestrian Sport.
- 38.7.** The Chair and members of the FEI Tribunal are elected for Terms of four (4) years and are re-eligible, but may not serve more than two (2) consecutive full Terms. Any member who leaves the FEI Tribunal further to an election may remain on the Tribunal for a maximum of three (3) months from the election for the sole purpose of finalising the decisions in cases being heard by panels on which he or she sits.
- 38.8.** Candidates for the Chair and membership must have the Support of their National Federation.
- 38.9.** The Chair of the FEI Tribunal may advise the Board and other bodies of the FEI to the extent it does not represent a conflict of interest.

### **Article 39 – Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)**

- 39.1.** 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.
- 39.2.** 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.
- 39.3.** Provided both the FEI and the other party or parties agree, any dispute (excluding violations of the FEI Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations) may bypass the FEI Tribunal and be submitted directly to CAS and settled definitively by the CAS in accordance with the CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration.
- 39.4.** 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.
- 39.5.** 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.

- 39.6. 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 40 – Reprive**

The President may reduce or remit any Suspension of more than one (1) year upon any person or organisation, 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 (5) years in case of Suspension for life.

### **Article 41 – Penalties and Enforcement**

- 41.1. The regime of penalties is set forth in the General Regulations and/or applicable Sport Rules.
- 41.2. 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.
- 41.3. All penalties validly imposed by National Federations which relate to participation in International Events and activities under the jurisdiction of the FEI shall be recognised and enforced by the FEI and all National Federations.

### **Article 42 – Ethics Panel**

- 42.1. 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.
- 42.2. An Ethics Panel is selected by the President and consists of a minimum of three (3) members, to include whenever appropriate one (1) member of the FEI Tribunal. If the circumstances so require, an Ethics Panel may be selected in turn by the Vice Presidents or Chair of the FEI Tribunal.
- 42.3. 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 XI – EQUESTRIAN COMMUNITY INTEGRITY UNIT**

### **Article 43 – Equestrian Community Integrity Unit**

- 43.1. The Equestrian Community Integrity Unit (“ECIU”) is officially established under these Statutes.
- 43.2. The ECIU is an Independent Body with its chairperson reporting directly to the FEI President or his/ her designee(s).

- 43.3.** The ECIU is a mechanism to protect integrity principles within the equestrian community, including, but not limited to, the “Clean Sport” programme and betting or corruption risks. It will be responsible for investigating any integrity issues related to the FEI, Headquarters, and all bodies whether volunteer or not. It will also maintain a review power, as needed, over the General Assembly, FEI Board, and FEI Executive Board. Evidence collected by the ECIU relating to the integrity of FEI Events shall be admissible in any proceeding before any FEI body, including the Ground Jury, the Appeal Committee, and the FEI Tribunal or Court of Arbitration for Sport.
- 43.4.** In any case under investigation that involves the President, the ECIU will report directly to the FEI Board. In any case under investigation that involves an FEI Board or FEI Executive Board member, the ECIU will report to the President and the FEI General Assembly.

## **CHAPTER XII – FEI OLYMPIC COUNCIL**

- 44.1.** Composition of the FEI Olympic Council
- 44.2.** The FEI Olympic Council is composed of:
- i. The FEI President;
  - ii. All the IOC Members and IOC Honorary Members with an Equestrian background;
  - iii. Any other Representatives invited by the FEI President;
  - iv. The Chairs of the FEI Jumping, Dressage, and Eventing Committees;
  - v. The FEI Secretary General.
- 44.3.** The FEI President shall be the Chair of the FEI Olympic Council.
- 44.4.** The FEI President shall appoint the relevant IOC Members and IOC Honorary Members with an Equestrian background.
- 44.5.** Any person who ceases to have a position on his/her relevant Committee automatically loses membership to the FEI Olympic Council.

### **Article 45 – The Role of the FEI Olympic Council**

- 45.1.** The FEI Olympic Council is constituted with the aim to promote and protect the Equestrian Sport and values in the Olympic movement.
- 45.2.** The FEI Olympic Council shall meet on an annual basis and/or on the initiative of the FEI President. The members of the FEI Olympic Council shall be invited to attend relevant FEI Event(s) showcasing Equestrian Sport.
- 45.3.** The FEI Olympic Council reports to the FEI Board.

## **CHAPTER XIII – GENERAL**

### **Article 46 – Official Languages**

- 46.1. English and French shall be the official languages of the FEI.
- 46.2. Official documents, Minutes, Agendas, and publications may be in one (1) or both languages.
- 46.3. The English text of all documents shall be the authoritative version for legal purposes.

### **Article 47 – Correspondence**

- 47.1. All correspondence to the FEI should be addressed to FEI Headquarters and always whenever appropriate through the relevant National Federation. When appropriate, correspondence from FEI Headquarters must be addressed or copied to the relevant National Federations.
- 47.2. All correspondence to or from the Headquarters must be in one (1) of the official languages of the FEI or be accompanied by a translation to one (1) of the official languages upon request.

### **Article 48 – Official Communications, Deadlines**

- 48.1. 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.
- 48.2. Deadlines for notification of dates, submissions of Agenda items, candidacies, Proxies and other relevant items are set forth in the Procedural Regulations of a General Assembly

### **Article 49 – Financial Year**

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

### **Article 50 – Scope, Conflicts of Rules and Omissions**

- 50.1. The FEI Rules and Regulations 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, Organising Committees, Horse Owners, Athletes, Persons Responsible, FEI Officials and team officials.
- 50.2. Should there be any conflict between the Statutes and the General Regulations, Internal Regulations or Procedural Regulations of a General Assembly, the Statutes shall prevail.
- 50.3. 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.



- 50.4. Should there remain any omission in the Statutes, General Regulations, Internal Regulations or Procedural Regulations of a 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 51 – Transitory Provisions**

- 51.1. These Statutes shall come into force immediately following a General Assembly session at which they are adopted.
- 51.2. The FEI Regional Group I Chair elected at the FEI General Assembly 2017 for the Term 2017-2021 shall automatically become one of the two EEF Regional Group Chairs for such Term.
- 51.3. The Candidate for FEI Regional Group II to be elected at the FEI General Assembly 2018 shall, if elected, become the other EEF Regional Group Chair for the term 2018-2022.

## DEFINITIONS

**Absolute Majority:** Majority (one-half -1/2- plus one -1-) 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 organised 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 driver, a lunger, or a vaulter.

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

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

**Calendar:** The official FEI Calendar specifying all FEI Events and dates and approved by the Secretary General, as set forth in the General Regulations.

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

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

**Chair:** A person who holds a position of authority within a Committee or at the General Assembly.

**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.

**Continent(s):** The FEI follows the same continental groupings of the IOC.

**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.

**Equestrian Disciplines:** International Events in Dressage, Jumping, Eventing, Driving, Endurance, Vaulting, Reining, Para-Equestrian and any other form of Equestrian Sport approved by the General Assembly.

**Ethics Panel:** A group of persons that may be convened ad hoc and selected by the President or by the Secretary General to deal with breaches of the FEI Code of Ethics or any other matter that may bring the sport into disrepute.

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

**Ex officio:** By virtue of an office or position without a vote.

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

**Executive Board:** A body as defined in Article 26.

**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 (1) or more financial years.





**FEI Rules and Regulations:** Any rule and regulation duly approved by an appropriate body of the FEI, including but not limited to Statutes, General Regulations, and Sport Rules.

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

**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 twelve (12) months 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 (1) vote whether at the ordinary annual meeting or an extraordinary General Assembly.

**General Regulations:** The General Regulations govern the conduct of all International equestrian Events organised 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:** The Secretary General, management and staff of the FEI.

**HM King Hussein I Building:** Seat of the FEI where the Secretary General, management and staff of the FEI are located.

**Independent Body:** An Independent Body is separate and apart from the FEI, Board, General Assembly, Headquarters, and/or any other FEI organisation or entity.

**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 organisation responsible to supervise the organisation of the Olympic Games.

**International Paralympic Committee (IPC):** International non-governmental and non-profit organisation responsible to supervise the organisation of the Paralympic Games.

**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 supported by its National Olympic Committee and approved by the General Assembly of the FEI.

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

**Organiser, Organising Committee:** Any organisation, group, society, body, or person which is recognised 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 (1) 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 authorisation to act for another.

**President:** A person elected by the General Assembly who is responsible for ensuring that the purposes and principles of the FEI are observed and for the general supervision of its activities, and who represents the FEI, chairs the General Assembly and the Board according to the Statutes.

**Procedural Regulations of a 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 (2/3) majority of those taking part in the vote, not counting abstentions.

**Quorum:** Minimum number of parties to be present or represented for any General 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. The FEI is composed of 8 Regional Groups: European Equestrian Federation (EEF) Regional Group (which comprises the former Regional Groups I and II) and Regional Groups III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII and IX.

**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 Board.

**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 Executive Board, the Board and the General Assembly.



**Simple Majority:** Majority (one-half -1/2- plus one -1-) 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 Controlled Medication Regulations, Anti-Doping Rules for Human Athletes, and 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(ed):** 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 or technical aspect related to Equestrian Sport.

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

## **ANNEX I – PROCEDURAL REGULATIONS OF A GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **1. Meetings**

The notice convening a General Assembly shall be provided to all National Federations at least sixteen (16) weeks before the contemplated date of the General Assembly.

### **2. Agenda**

- 2.1. Items which a National Federation requests to put on the agenda for the annual ordinary General Assembly must be provided to the Secretary General in writing at least twelve (12) weeks before the date of the ordinary General Assembly, unless a later date is specified in writing by the Secretary General. The Secretary General shall inform all National Federations in writing of such proposed items submitted by any National Federation and shall provide all National Federations with an opportunity to comment on such proposals within two (2) weeks.
- 2.2. The agenda and available supporting documents shall be provided to all National Federations no later than four (4) weeks before any General Assembly.

### **3. Composition of the General Assembly**

- 3.1. Each National Federation may be represented by two (2) delegates, but each delegation has only one (1) 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 (2) 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 twenty four (24) hours before the start of a General Assembly.
- 3.4. No delegation may exercise, in any event, more than three (3) voting rights. Voting rights are valid for all meetings during the week of the General Assembly, including Regional Group meetings.

### **4. Amendments to the FEI Rules and Regulations**

- 4.1. Proposals for amendments from National Federations must reach the Secretary General by 1 March of the year in which the FEI Rules and Regulations are to be revised at the annual ordinary

General Assembly, unless a later date is specified in writing by the Secretary General. In the event an extraordinary General Assembly is convened, the Secretary General shall issue a timeline to all National Federations setting out the relevant deadlines within two (2) weeks of announcing the convening of an extraordinary General Assembly.

- 4.2. All National Federations must be given at least six (6) weeks to review a draft of the revised Statutes and/or General Regulations prior to any General Assembly and propose any amendments thereto. The final draft must be provided to the National Federations no later than four (4) weeks before a General Assembly.

## **5. Election of Board Members**

Candidacies for positions on the Board, except Vice President and Deputy Chairs positions, 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 (4) weeks prior to the relevant General Assembly session if known or as soon as possible thereafter if they are not. Any unforeseen changes to the list thereafter must be immediately notified to National Federations.

## **6. Standing Committees**

Candidates must be proposed during the election year by a date set by the Board prior the General Assembly. The Secretary General will make available in due time the list of the positions on the Standing Committees that are up for election or appointment.

## **7. Election procedures for those Committee Members who are elected by the GA and for FEI Tribunal Members**

- 7.1. Unless specified otherwise, such Committee Members and FEI Tribunal Members shall be elected by a Simple Majority. Abstentions are not counted as cast votes.
- 7.2. 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.
- 7.3. When there are three (3) or more open positions for the same Committee and multiple Candidates, a Ballot for the first open position shall be held and the Candidate with the most number of votes received shall be elected. Then another Ballot shall be held with the remaining Candidates for the second open position and the Candidate with the most number of votes shall be elected. This procedure shall be repeated until all open positions have been filled.

## **8. Elections of FEI Regional Group Chairs and Members of the Nominations Committee**

- 8.1. Contested Elections of Regional Groups III to IX and Nominations Committee Members



- i. In order to present one (1) Candidate to the General Assembly for Election, Elections will be performed via an electronic secret Ballot voting system, established by the FEI. The date(s) of the Election(s) will be determined and communicated to National Federations (NFs) of the concerned Regional Group(s) directly by the FEI.
- ii. In case there are three (3) or more Candidates, the Candidate with the least number of votes received shall be removed from the list of Candidates after the first Ballot and another Ballot shall be held. This procedure shall be repeated until a Candidate receives the necessary majority.
- iii. In the event multiple Ballots are necessary, a Simple Majority shall be sufficient for Election on the second Ballot between the two (2) remaining Candidates.

## 8.2. Non-contested Elections

- i. Regional Groups III to IX and Nominations Committee Members.

If there is only one (1) Candidate within the Regional Group, NFs within his/her Group will be asked to provide the FEI with official letters clearly indicating their Support for the Candidate. This in order to be able to officially inform the FEI General Assembly that the sole Candidate obtained the two-thirds (2/3) majority Support of the Regional Group. In such case, an electronic voting system is not mandatory.

- ii. EEF Regional Group Chairs.

The elected EEF President and 1st Vice President shall be the sole Candidates presented to the General Assembly for Election for the position of EEF Regional Group Chairs provided that they meet the FEI eligibility criteria.



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