

**FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)**

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## **I. Title I – Name – Head Office – Aim and Activities - Duration**

### **Article 1 – Name**

- 1.1. The association is named “Fédération Cynologique Internationale“, in short “FCI“, (hereinafter referred to as the "**Association**").
- 1.2. The Association has the legal form of an international not-for-profit organisation and is governed by the provisions of Title III of the Belgian law of 27 June 1921 pertaining to not-for-profit organisations, foundations, European political parties and European political foundations (hereinafter referred to as the "**Law of 27 June 1921**"), as modified and amended by subsequent laws.

### **Article 2 – Head Office**

- 2.1. The head office of the Association is presently situated in THUIN, 13, Place Albert 1<sup>er</sup>, Belgium (hereinafter referred to as the "**Head Office**").
- 2.2. Without prejudice to the application of the Belgian linguistic legislation, the Head Office may be transferred to any other location in Belgium upon a decision taken by the General Assembly.

### **Article 3 – Aim and Activities**

- 3.1. The Association is strictly not-for-profit making. It shall pursue the following aims worldwide in accordance with the rules and legislation of each country:
  - a) encouraging and promoting the breeding, registration and use of pedigree dogs ensuring that their functional health and physical features meet the standard set for each respective breed, enabling them to work and to carry out different functions in accordance with the specific characteristics of their breed;
  - b) protecting the use, the keeping and the breeding of pedigree dogs in the countries where the Association has a Member or a Contract Partner; supporting the non-profit exchange of dogs and of information on cynology between the Members and the Contract Partners and initiating the organisation of shows, tests, trials, conferences, sport and educational events, the use of dogs in rescue operations and for other special purposes such as therapy, assistance and other dog related activities;
  - c) promoting and supporting dogdom and dog welfare worldwide, within the scope of competence of each Member or Contract Partner and to the extent which is possible for each Member or Contract Partner. In particular, all dogs are entitled to the following:
    - (i) Freedom from hunger, thirst and malnutrition;
    - (ii) Freedom from exposure to extreme heat and cold;
    - (iii) Freedom from fear;
    - (iv) Freedom from injury and illness;
    - (v) Freedom to exercise in adequate conditions.

- 3.2. In order to realize the aforementioned aims of international utility, the Association is developing in particular the following activities:
- a) to issue special regulations in order to ensure in particular:
    - (i) the mutual recognition of studbooks, appendixes to the studbooks, and of pedigrees, exclusive of any other;
    - (ii) the mutual recognition of kennel names and judges and the establishment of an international directory of kennel names and judges;
    - (iii) the promotion of ethics and scientific research, which is of fundamental importance in cynology, and the free exchange of scientific information between the Members and Contract Partners ;
    - (iv) the observance of the breed standards as approved by the Association which must be recognised by all the Members and Contract Partners as far as they are not in contradiction with the laws of their respective country;
    - (v) the standardization – to all possible extent – of the national regulations by issuing regulations for international shows and for the international beauty and working championships and by keeping a list of dogs eligible for these championships;
    - (vi) the standardization – when justified – of the national regulations regarding the titles of national champions;
    - (vii) seeking to maintain high standards of judges appointed to officiate at international shows, working tests and trials;
    - (viii) the mutual recognition of penalties and procedures established by the Members and Contract Partners.
  - b) to support Members and Contract Partners, if necessary, in conjunction with other international organisations, by providing professional information, know-how and, where necessary, experts in cynology;
  - c) to define and publish the characteristics of each breed after previous approval by the General Assembly or General Committee of the Association based on the breed standards of the country of origin or of the country of patronage of breeds;
  - d) to support the organisation of international conferences and education seminars;
  - e) to serve as a resource and forum for education, information sharing and networking with the Members and Contract Partners.
- 3.3. The Association may become a member of any other not-for-profit organisation provided that membership has been previously approved by the General Assembly of the Association.

3.4. The Association may undertake any other activity or take any other actions that are directly or indirectly related to the aim of the Association, or that are necessary or useful to the realization of said aim. Among other things, and provided that such activity is either expressly contained in the approved budget of the Association, or is otherwise approved by the General Assembly, the Association may grant loans to, invest in the capital of, or, in any other manner, directly or indirectly, take participations in other legal entities, associations and companies of private or of public nature, regardless of whether they are governed by Belgian law or by foreign laws.

In addition to this, the Association may carry out any activity that contributes directly or indirectly to the realisation of the above mentioned not-for-profit aim of international utility. This includes the exercise of commercial and profit-making activities on a secondary basis to the extent that is legally admitted. At all times, the proceeds shall be allocated to the realization of the above mentioned not-for-profit aim of international utility.

The Association is authorized to collect any resources which are necessary to the realization of its aim.

#### **Article 4 – Non-discrimination and stance against racism**

4.1. Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or groups of people on the grounds of ethnic origin, gender, language, religion, politics, sexual orientation or any other reason is strictly prohibited within the Association and punishable by suspension or by exclusion.

#### **Article 5 – Promoting friendly relations**

5.1. The Association shall promote friendly relations:

- a) between Members, Sections and Contract Partners;
- b) in society for humanitarian objectives.

#### **Article 6 – Duration**

The Association is constituted for an indefinite duration and can be dissolved at any time following a decision by the General Assembly in accordance with article 55 of these Statutes.

### **Title II. – Membership and Partnership**

#### **Article 7 – General provisions**

7.1. The Association has two (2) categories of members: the Full Members and the Associate Members (hereinafter all referred to as the “**Members**”) and two (2) categories of partners: the Contract Partners and the Cooperating Partners (hereinafter all referred to as the “**Partners**”).

7.2. Natural persons are not eligible for Membership or Partnership of the Association.

- 7.3. In accordance with their respective status, which is stipulated in articles 8, 9, 10 and 11 of these Statutes, all Members and Partners shall enjoy all of the rights which are granted to them under these Statutes, the FCI Standing Orders, the FCI regulations, the circulars and the decisions of the FCI General Committee and General Assembly (hereinafter all referred to as the "**FCI Governing Rules**").
- 7.4 Membership is open to only one category per country (Full Member, Associate Member and Contracting Partner), not being possible to recognize, simultaneously, several National Canine Organisations.

### **Article 8 – Full Member**

- 8.1. Full Membership is open to only one (1) National Canine Organisation per country that satisfies all of the following conditions:
- a) having Associate Membership status of the Association for a period of minimum five (5) years;
  - b) upon application for full membership, registration of a minimum of 3.000 dogs (puppies and imports) in their studbook and appendix and registration of a minimum of fifteen per cent (15 %) of the FCI recognised breeds during each of the three (3) calendar years preceding the date of application;
  - c) adoption of the legal form of a not-for-profit organisation or of its legal equivalent under the applicable law of the country of the concerned organisation;
  - d) recognition of all of the breeds which are recognised by the Association;
  - e) involvement in pursuing and achieving the Association's aims.
- 8.2. Full Members have full Membership rights including the right to attend and to vote at the General Assembly through their Delegates appointed in compliance with article 20.1. of these Statutes.
- Amongst others, Full Members also have the right:
- a) to propose candidates eligible for election as General Committee member or as member in any other body of the Association and in the mandatory Commissions;
  - b) to apply for breed recognition by the FCI, on a provisional and definitive basis;
  - c) to submit proposals to the General Assembly, including proposals for the amendment of the Statutes or of the Standing Orders;
  - d) to apply for hosting a World or Section Show or a Section/World Sport or Working Championship;
  - e) to nominate and notify in writing the names of up to three (3) Delegates to the General Assembly of the Association;
  - f) to use the Association as a source of information and as a platform of contact with other Members or Contract Partners;
  - g) to use the FCI logo in compliance with article 60 of these Statutes.



8.3. Full Members have the following Membership duties:

- a) to act in the interests of the Association to the best of their abilities and possibilities;
- b) to promote and support dogdom and dog welfare within the Full Members' scope of competence and to the extent that is possible;
- c) to comply fully with the FCI Governing Rules provided that they are not contrary to the domestic laws of the Full Member's country;
- d) to register kennel names with the FCI international kennel names directory;
- e) to pay a Full Membership fee and any other fees due to the Association;
- f) to ensure that the Full Member's own members comply with the FCI Governing Rules at all times;
- g) to recognize all of the FCI breeds (provisional or definitive);
- h) to respect the FCI breed standards and breed nomenclature;
- i) to exclude the persons who breed and/or sell dogs exclusively with economic purposes and/or who violate the code of breeding ethics as defined in the Standing Orders;
- j) to not offend the Association or any of its Members and Contract Partners maliciously, publicly and officially;
- k) to organize at least two (2) CACIB shows a year for countries with yearly studbook registrations up to ten thousand (10.000) dogs during the two years preceding the dates of the events;
- l) for Members with more than ten thousand (10.000) yearly studbook registrations during the two (2) years preceding the dates of the events, to organize one (1) CACIB show for every additional ten thousand (10.000) dogs registered, with a minimum of ten (10) CACIB shows for Members with more than one hundred thousand (100.000) yearly studbook registrations during the two (2) years preceding the dates of the events;
- m) to provide any statistics as required by the Head Office.

## **Article 9 – Associate Member**

9.1. Associate Membership is open to only one (1) National Canine Organisation per country that satisfies all of the following conditions:

- a) having Contract Partnership status of the Association and having served a probationary period of minimum five (5) years;
- b) upon application for associate membership, registration of a minimum of thousand (1.000) dogs (puppies and imports) in their studbook and appendix and registration of a minimum of ten percent (10 %) of the FCI recognised breeds during each of the three (3) calendar years preceding the date of application;
- c) adoption of the legal form of a not-for-profit organisation or of its legal equivalent under the applicable law of the country of the concerned organisation;
- d) recognition of all of the breeds which are recognised by the Association;
- e) involvement in pursuing and achieving the Association's aims;
- f) conclusion of a special Associate Agreement that specifies the relation of the Associate Member with the Association.

9.2. Associate Members have the right to attend the General Assembly meeting. They do not have the right to vote, but they have the right to speak through their Delegates appointed in compliance with article 9.2., paragraph 2,d) of these Statutes. Associate Members cannot propose candidates for election as General Committee member or as member in any other body of the Association and in the mandatory Commissions. Associate Members do not have the right to apply for the hosting of a World or Section Show or a Section/World Sport or Working Championship. Amongst others, Associate Members also have the right:

- a) to take part in their Section meetings with the right to speak, but not with the right to vote;
- b) to take part in the meetings of the non-mandatory Commissions with the right to speak, but not with the right to vote;
- c) to apply for breed recognition by the FCI, on a provisional and definitive basis;
- d) to nominate and notify in writing the names of up to three (3) Delegates to the General Assembly of the Association;
- e) to use the Association as a source of information and as a platform of contact with other Members or Contract Partners;
- f) to use the FCI logo in compliance with article 60 of these Statutes.

9.3. Associate Members have the following Membership duties:

- a) to act in the interests of the Association to the best of their abilities and possibilities;
- b) to promote and support dogdom and dog welfare within the Associate Members' scope of competence and to the extent that is possible;
- c) to comply fully with the FCI Governing Rules provided that they are not contrary to the domestic laws of the Associate Member's country;
- d) to comply with the special Associate Membership Agreement that they entered into with the Association;
- e) to register kennel names with the FCI international kennel names directory;
- f) to pay an Associate Membership fee and any other fees due to the Association;
- g) to ensure that the Associate Member's own members comply with FCI Governing Rules at all times;
- h) to recognize all of the FCI breeds (provisional or definitive);
- i) to respect the FCI breed standards and breed nomenclature;
- j) to exclude the persons who breed and/or sell dogs exclusively with economic purposes and/or who violate the code of breeding ethics as defined in the Standing Orders;
- k) to not offend the Association or any of its Members and Contract Partners maliciously, publicly and officially;
- l) to organize two (2) CACIB shows per year, with no exception;
- m) to provide any statistics as required by the Head Office.

## **Article 10 – Contract Partner**

- 10.1. Contract Partnership is open to only one (1) National Canine Organisation per country that satisfies all of the following conditions:
- a) upon application for partnership contract, registration of a minimum of five hundred (500) dogs (puppies and imports) in their studbook and appendix and registration of a minimum of five (5) % of the FCI recognised breeds during each of the three (3) calendar years preceding the date of application;
  - b) adoption of the legal form of a not-for-profit organisation or of its legal equivalent under the applicable law of the country of the concerned organisation;
  - c) recognition of all of the breeds recognised by the Association;
  - d) involvement in pursuing and achieving the Association's aims;
  - e) conclusion of a Partnership Contract that specifies the relation of the Contract Partner with the Association.
- 10.2. Contract Partners have the right to attend the General Assembly through their Delegates as observers appointed in compliance with article 10.2., Para. 2, c) of these Statutes. They do not have the right to speak nor the right to vote.  
Contract Partners cannot propose candidates for election as General Committee member or as member in any other body of the Association and in the mandatory Commissions. Contract Partners do not have the right to apply for the hosting of a World or Section Show or a Section/World Sport or Working Championship.  
Amongst others Contract Partners have however the right:
- a) to attend their Section meetings as observers with the right to speak, but not with the right to vote;
  - b) to attend non-mandatory Commission meetings as observers with the right to speak but not with the right to vote;
  - c) to nominate and notify in writing the names of three (3) Delegates to the General Assembly of the Association;
  - d) to use the Association as a source of information and a platform of contact with other Members or Contract Partners;
  - e) to use the FCI logo in compliance with article 60 of these Statutes.
- 10.3. Contract Partners have the following Membership duties:
- a) to act in the interests of the Association to the best of their abilities and possibilities;
  - b) to promote and support dogdom and dog welfare within the Contract Partners' scope of competence and to the possible extent;
  - c) to comply fully with the FCI Governing Rules at all times provided that they are not contrary to the domestic laws of the Contract Partner's country;
  - d) to comply with the Partnership Contract that they entered into with the Association;
  - e) to register kennel names with the FCI international kennel names directory;
  - f) to pay a Contract Partnership fee and any other fees due to the Association;
  - g) to ensure that the Contract Partner's own members comply with the FCI Governing Rules at all times;
  - h) to recognize all of the FCI breeds (provisional or definitive);

- i) to respect the FCI breed standards and breed nomenclature;
- j) to exclude the persons who breed and/or sell dogs exclusively with economic purposes and/or who violate the code of breeding ethics as defined in the Standing Orders;
- k) to not offend the Association or any of its Members and Contract Partners maliciously, publicly and officially;
- l) to provide any statistics as required by the Head Office.

## **Article 11 – Cooperating Partner**

- 11.1. Cooperating Partnership is open to every organisation or legal entity sharing or willing to support the aim of the Association and that has entered into a special Cooperation Agreement which specifies the relation of the Cooperating Partner with the Association. This Cooperation Agreement – minus the provisions with commercial orientation- shall be published by the Association. The Association may only recognise international breed club organisations (i) promoting pedigree dogs, respecting the official FCI standards of the breed(s) they represent, and (ii) recognising as their members only the national breed clubs which are affiliated to the national canine organisation of their country, Member of the Association. The Member from the country of origin of the breed(s) must give its final approval on this recognition. Breeds whose country of origin is not part of the Association's Membership are exempted from this final approval.
- 11.2. Amongst others, the Cooperating Partners have the right:
- a) to nominate one (1) contact person and to notify the Association of that contact person's name in writing;
  - b) to exercise all specific rights which are granted to them as laid down in the special Cooperation Agreement which they entered into with the Association.
- 11.3. Cooperating Partners have the following duties:
- a) to comply with the special Cooperation Agreement which they entered into with the Association;
  - b) to not offend the Association or any of its Members and Contract Partners maliciously, publicly and officially.

## **Article 12 – Procedure for application - Admission**

- 12.1. The Association accepts only one (1) National Canine Organisation per country as Member or Contract Partner of the Association.
- 12.2. Only Associate Members can apply for Full Membership provided that (i) the concerned Associate Member satisfies all of the conditions provided for in article 8.1 of these Statutes and (ii) that it has fulfilled all of its Associate Membership duties in accordance with article 9.3. of these Statutes.
- 12.3. Only Contract Partners can apply for Associate Membership, provided that (i) the concerned Contract Partner satisfies all of the conditions provided for in article 9.1 of these Statutes and (ii) that it has fulfilled all of its Contract Partnership duties in accordance with article 10.3. of these Statutes.
- 12.4. Full Members are allowed to apply to revert to the category of Associate Membership.

- 12.5. In order to become a Member or a Contract Partner of the Association, an application to any category of Membership or Partnership needs to be made. The application needs to be signed by the applicant's legal representative(s) and filed by written request, as defined in the Standing Orders, to the Head Office.
- The General Committee shall examine Membership or Partnership applications in accordance with the FCI Governing Rules.
- The General Committee shall submit the applications for Membership together with its first assessment based on a written report submitted by the applicant to the General Assembly for decision. The General Assembly shall have full power of decision and discretion to decide whether Full Membership or Associate Membership shall be granted to the applicant. The General Assembly shall take the final decision and shall not be required to justify its decision. No notice of appeal can be given against the decision of the General Assembly.
- The General Committee shall examine the Partnership applications in accordance with the FCI Governing Rules together with the drafts of the Partnership Contract or of the special Cooperation Agreement. The General Committee has full power and discretion (i) to decide whether Contract or Cooperating Partnership shall be granted to the applicant and (ii) to conclude and sign the Partnership Contract or the special Cooperation Agreement respectively with the Contracts Partners and Cooperating Partners. The General Committee shall not be required to justify its decision.
- 12.6. The decision of the General Assembly or the General Committee shall be notified by the Head Office to the applicant within thirty (30) calendar days following the decision. The new Member or Partner shall acquire its respective Membership or Partnership rights and duties as from the date of the decision of admittance. However, a newly admitted Full Member is only eligible to vote at the next General Assembly meeting.
- 12.7. Further provisions on the application formalities and procedure for Membership and Partnership may be adopted in the Standing Orders of the Association.

### **Article 13 – End of Membership or Partnership**

- 13.1. Membership or Partnership in the various Membership or Partnership categories ends (i) in accordance with article 13. 2., 13.3., 13.4 or 13.5. of these Statutes or (ii) by dissolution of the Association.
- The end of Membership or Partnership during the course of the Association's financial year shall not affect the Member's or Partner's obligation to pay the Membership or Partnership fee or any other sum due on the date of the end of Membership or Partnership. The Member or Partner whose Membership or Partnership ended shall not be entitled to claim any of the Association's assets nor any reimbursement of its Membership or Partnership fee or any other compensation.
- 13.2. Any Member or Partner is entitled to resign its Membership or Partnership at any time by written notice sent by registered letter to the President of the Association with effect at the end of the calendar year following such written notice. Members or Partners who wish to resign are required to fulfil their obligations according to article 13.1., paragraph 2 of these Statutes.

13.3. The exclusion of a Member may be proposed by the General Committee to the General Assembly in the following cases:

- a) if that Member ceases to satisfy the Membership criteria provided for in article 8 or 9 of these Statutes, except the criteria in 8.1 b) and 9.1 b);
- b) in case of repetition of a serious violation by that Member of the provisions of the FCI Governing Rules;
- c) in case of a gross violation by that Member of the provisions of the FCI Governing Rules;
- d) if the conduct of that Member is contrary to the aim of the Association and/or if it harms the Association or any of its Members or Contract Partners;
- e) if the Member does not pay or provide a suitable payment plan for its Membership fees or any other sum in arrears for more than six (6) months from the invoice due date on in spite of the notification of a payment reminder by registered letter or by email (with delivery and receipt confirmation) giving an additional delay of thirty (30) calendar days to execute the payment.

The Member whose Membership is proposed to be terminated must be summoned to have the opportunity to present its case on the envisaged exclusion either by oral or written statement to the General Assembly.

The exclusion of a Member shall be pronounced by the General Assembly by a decision taken by an absolute majority of the votes of the Full Members present or represented in the meeting. The decision of the General Assembly is final and the exclusion shall be effective as of the date of the decision of the General Assembly. The Member excluded is required to fulfil its obligations according to article 13.1., paragraph 2 of these Statutes.

13.4. The exclusion of a Contract Partner may be decided by the General Committee in the following cases:

- a) if that Contract Partner ceases to satisfy the Partnership criteria provided for in article 10 of these Statutes;
- b) in case of repetition of a serious violation by that Contract Partner of the provisions of the FCI Governing Rules;
- c) in case of a gross violation by that Contract Partner of the provisions of the FCI Governing Rules;
- d) if the conduct of that Contract Partner is contrary to the aim of the Association and/or if it harms the Association or any of its Members or Contract Partners ;
- e) if the Contract Partner does not pay or provide a suitable payment plan for its Partnership fee or any other sum in arrears for more than six (6) months from the invoice due date on in spite of the notification of a payment reminder by registered letter or by e-mail (with delivery and receipt confirmation) giving an additional delay of thirty (30) calendar days to execute the payment.

The Contract Partner whose Contract Partnership is proposed to be terminated must be summoned to have the opportunity to present its case on the envisaged exclusion either by oral or written statement to the General Committee.

The exclusion of a Contract Partner shall be pronounced by the General Committee based on a decision taken by absolute majority of the votes of the General Committee present or participating remotely in the meeting. The decision of the General Committee is final and the exclusion shall be effective as of the date of the decision. The Contract Partner excluded is required to fulfil its obligations according to article 13.1., paragraph 2 of these Statutes.

- 13.5. Cooperating Partnership shall end in accordance with the provisions laid down in the special Cooperation Agreement concluded between the Association and the Cooperating Partner.

#### **Article 14 – Suspension of Membership or Contract Partnership rights**

- 14.1. The General Committee can, with immediate effect, provisionally suspend all or part of a Member's Membership rights or of a Contract Partner's Partnership rights in the following cases:

- a) repetition of a minor violation by that Member or Contract Partner of the provisions of the FCI Governing Rules;
- b) failure by that Member or Contract Partner to comply with the demand for full and appropriate corrective action stipulated in the written warning previously sent by the General Committee to this Member or Contract Partner;
- c) serious violation by that Member or Contract Partner of the FCI Governing Rules;
- d) if the conduct of that Member or Contract Partner is contrary to the aim of the Association and/or if it harms the Association or any of its Members or Contract Partners;
- e) if the Member or Contract Partner does not pay or provide a suitable payment plan for its Membership or Contract Partner fees or any other sum in arrears for more than four (4) months from the invoice due date on despite receiving a payment reminder by registered letter or by e-mail (with delivery and receipt confirmation) giving an additional delay of thirty (30) calendar days to execute the payment.

- 14.2. The suspended Member or Contract Partner will cease to benefit from the concerned Membership or Partnership rights. However, it has to continue to fulfil all of its Membership or Partnership duties under these Statutes.

- 14.3. The suspension decision of a Member or Contract Partner by the General Committee is valid until the General Committee decides otherwise, or as far as the Members are concerned, until a final decision has been taken by the General Assembly at its next General Assembly meeting once the General Committee has put forward the case and the reasons for the suspension to the General Assembly.

The concerned Member or Contract Partner has the right to present its case on the envisaged suspension by written statement to the General Assembly or to the General Committee.

The General Committee is responsible for informing the Members and Contract Partners as soon as it receives the position of the concerned Member or Contract Partner.

- 14.4. The suspended Member or Contract Partner has no right to claim any financial compensation for any decision which was taken according to this article.

### **Article 15 – Downgrading from Full to Associate Membership**

- 15.1. The downgrading of a Member from Full Membership to Associate Membership may be proposed by the General Committee to the General Assembly in the following cases:

- a) in case of repetition of a serious violation of the provisions of the FCI Governing Rules by that Full Member;
- b) in case of a gross violation of the provisions of the FCI Governing Rules by that Full Member;
- c) if the conduct of that Full Member is contrary to the aim of the Association and /or if it harms the Association or any of its Members or Contract Partners;
- d) if the concerned Full Member does not pay or provide a suitable payment plan for its Membership fees or any other sum in arrears for more than six (6) months from the invoice due date on despite having received a payment reminder by registered letter or email (with delivery and receipt confirmation) giving an additional delay of thirty (30) calendar days to execute the payment.

- 15.2. The Full Member whose Membership is proposed to be downgraded must be summoned by the General Committee, so that it has the opportunity to present its case on the envisaged downgrading by submitting either an oral or a written statement to the General Assembly.

The downgrading of a Member from Full Membership to Associate Membership shall be based on a decision taken by an absolute majority of the votes of the Full Members present or represented in the meeting. The decision of the General Assembly is final and the downgrading shall be effective as of the date of the decision by the General Assembly.



## **Title III. - Sections**

### **Article 16 – Composition**

- 16.1. The Association is divided into the following geographical sub-divisions (hereinafter individually referred to as the "**Section**" or all referred to as the "**Sections**"):
- a) Europe;
  - b) Asia, Africa & Oceania;
  - c) Americas & Caribbean.
- 16.2. Every Member or Contract Partner is allocated by the General Committee into one (1) of the Sections listed under article 16.1. of these Statutes.
- 16.3. In case of any significant changes, this allocation may be reviewed by the General Assembly at any time.

### **Article 17 – Section Rules**

- 17.1. The Members or Contract Partners of a Section may incorporate an entity or organisation with or without legal personality for every Section provided that:
- a) the Section works exclusively in the interest of the Association;
  - b) the aims and activities of the Section are compliant with the aims and activities of the Association such as they are stipulated in these Statutes;
  - c) the Section decides on its own organisation and/or governing rules subject to and in compliance with the provision of the FCI Governing Rules.
- The Sections' statutes and/or regulations must be submitted to the General Committee of the Association for approval.
- 17.2. A Section is made up of at least five (5) Full Members. The Members of a Section must have registered a total of at least one hundred thousand (100,000) dogs during the last calendar year (in the studbooks and in the appendixes to the studbooks) in order to be allowed to have a representative on the General Committee of the Association (hereinafter referred to as the "**Section Representative**").
- The president of each Section represents the Section in question and acts as its Section Representative on the General Committee of the Association. He will be appointed by the General Assembly in accordance with article 26.1 of these Statutes as General Committee Member of the Association. In his absence, the Section's General Committee decides who represents the Section in the General Committee of the Association.
- 17.3. Each Section's General Committee must do its utmost to ensure that its own members (i) abide by the FCI Governing Rules and (ii) respect the FCI breeds standards and the FCI breed nomenclature.
- 17.4. The General Committee of the Association can delegate specific duties and powers to the Sections.
- 17.5. The Sections are financed by the membership fees which are set by the Sections and a financial contribution set by the General Assembly of the Association ("**FCI Financial Contribution**").

The Section's General Committee must submit the budget of the Section for the following financial year and indicate the use of the FCI Financial Contribution within the Section to the General Committee of the Association for information.

- 17.6. A yearly activity plan and activity report and a yearly financial report, including a report regarding the use of the FCI Financial Contribution according to article 17.5. of these Statutes have to be sent to the General Committee of the Association by each Section for information purposes before the 1st of October of the following calendar year.

## **Title IV. - ORGANISATION**

### **Article 18 – Governance structure**

- 18.1. The Association is composed of the following bodies:

- a) the General Assembly;
- b) the General Committee;
- c) the Executive Committee;
- d) the President;
- e) the Executive Director.

The General Assembly is empowered with the determination of the overall strategy and the general business of the Association.

The General Committee is empowered with the management of the Association, including the administration, organisation, human resources and financial management of the Association.

The Executive Committee may - subject to the supervision of the General Committee- take any resolution concerning the operations and affairs of the Association in view to implement the decisions of the General Committee, except for powers specifically (i) conferred to the General Committee by the present Statutes or by the Law of 27 June 1921 or (ii) delegated to the Executive Director of the Association.

The President is the highest legal representative of the Association. He will hold the chair of the General Committee and the Executive Committee.

The Executive Director heads the Head Office of the Association. He is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Association and executes the decisions taken by the General Assembly, the General Committee and the Executive Committee.

- 18.2. Mandatory or non-mandatory Commissions for advisory purposes may be established by the General Assembly in order to assist the Association in achieving its aim.
- 18.3. The Executive Committee, the General Committee, the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission and the General Assembly shall act as Dispute Resolution Bodies as laid down in Title VII of these Statutes in order to resolve any disputes, complaints or incidents whether arising from misconduct or any other violation of the FCI Governing Rules pursuant to the FCI Dispute Resolution Procedure.
- 18.4. The Head Office is set up in order to support the General Assembly, the General Committee and the Executive Committee in the administration of the Association and the Members and Contract Partners.
- 18.5. A Financial Commission is established to audit the financial information and the accounting of the Association.

- 18.6. Further details regarding the composition and the functioning of the bodies, the Commissions including the Financial Commission and the Head Office of the Association may be laid down in the Standing Orders of the Association.

## **SECTION 4.1.- GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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### **Article 19 – Powers**

- 19.1. The General Assembly is the highest body of the Association and has full powers to ensure the achievement of the aim of the Association, except those powers which are expressly conferred on the General Committee and on the Executive Committee, either by law or by these Statutes.

All powers which have not been expressly conferred by law or by these Statutes on the General Committee are exercised by the General Assembly.

- 19.2. The General Assembly shall in particular have the following powers:
- a) to determine the overall strategy and the general business of the Association;
  - b) to approve the General Committee's report including the activity and financial reports, the Executive Director's report, the Financial Commission's report, and the annual accounts of the two (2) previous financial years;
  - c) to approve the budgets and the activity plans for the following and the subsequent financial year as well as any amendment to them, including the approval of any necessary and obligated expenses which were not expressly contained in the approved budget of the Association of the concerned financial year and which have been validated and executed previously by the General Committee during the said financial year;
  - d) to vote on the discharge of the members of the General Committee and of the External Auditors;
  - e) to set the Membership/Partnership fee and the fees for the patronage of shows, trials and tests;
  - f) to fix the FCI Financial Contribution for the financing of each Section;
  - g) to decide on the admission, downgrading and expulsion of Members of the Association or on the suspension of Membership rights where requested by the General Committee and/or the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission;
  - h) to elect the members of the General Committee and the President;
  - i) to appoint the Section representatives designated by each Section in accordance with article 26.1. of these Statutes as General Committee members;
  - j) to appoint and revoke the members of the Financial Commission;
  - k) to appoint and revoke the External Auditors, if required by law;
  - l) to establish mandatory or non-mandatory Commissions and to elect the members of the mandatory Commissions;
  - m) to revoke the members of the General Committee and the President;
  - n) to elect the respective Members to host the World Dog Show and/or the General Assembly meeting for the subsequent five (5) years;
  - o) to elect the members of the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission according to article 46.1. of these Statutes;
  - p) to amend these Statutes and the Standing Orders;

- q) to recognise new breeds on a definitive basis and to approve their respective breed standards;
- r) to bestow the title of honorary president or honorary member upon any person for meritorious service to the Association;
- s) to vote on any change on the geographical sub-division of the Sections and to vote on a dissolution of a Section or of the Sections;
- t) to dissolve the Sections;
- u) to dissolve the Association;
- v) to decide upon any other matter or activity serving the aim of the Association which has not been explicitly conferred to another body or Committee of the Association.

## **Article 20 – Composition**

- 20.1 The General Assembly is composed of all of the Full Members of the Association. Each Full Member may appoint up to three (3) delegates among the natural persons who have their Legal residence in the country of the concerned Full Member in order to represent that Full Member at the General Assembly (hereinafter referred to as the “**Delegates**”). A General Committee member cannot be appointed as Delegate of his Full Member's country.  
Such appointments may be modified at any time by the Full Member.
- 20.2. Further provisions regarding the composition of the General Assembly, the appointment of the Delegates of the Members or Contract Partners of the Association and their replacement, powers and responsibilities as well as the participation of third parties to General Assembly meetings may be adopted in the Standing Orders of the Association.

## **Article 21 – Meeting rules**

- 21.1. The ordinary General Assembly shall be held at least once every two (2) years at a physical location within the national territory of the Member elected to host the ordinary General Assembly meeting and/or the World Dog Show according to article 19.2. n) of these Statutes.  
The General Assembly meeting will not be held on the same day as the World Dog Show.
- 21.2. If necessary, an extraordinary General Assembly meeting may be called at any time at a physical location upon decision of the General Committee or upon request of at least one quarter (1/4) of the Full Members.
- 21.3. The Executive Director will send a calling notice by email or upon specific request, by post mail or by any other acceptable written means of communication, to the Members and Contract Partners at the latest hundred and twenty (120) calendar days before the date of the General Assembly meeting.  
The calling notice includes the place, date and time of the meeting.
- 21.4. The Executive Director is to be notified of proposals for agenda items by post mail or by email, at the latest ninety (90) calendar days before the General Assembly meeting. He shall draw up the agenda based on proposals from the General Committee, the Full Members and the mandatory Commissions and submit it for final decision on the agenda to the General Committee.

The General Committee has to give its opinion to the General Assembly on any matter or proposal forwarded by the Full Members and the mandatory Commissions.

The General Committee is allowed to submit proposals and requests to the General Assembly at any time with the exception of changes of the agenda which is governed by 21.4., last paragraph of these Statutes.

The proposals for candidates (outgoing members and new candidates) for a position within the General Committee and the mandatory Commissions must be sent to the Executive Director, in the same way as other proposals, for inclusion in the agenda. A candidate may not stand for election on the day of the General Assembly if his candidacy does not appear on the agenda.

The agenda as well as the relevant enclosures and supporting documents shall be sent by email, or upon specific request by post mail or by any other acceptable written means of communication and shall be made available on the website for the Members and Partners at the latest forty-five (45) calendar days before the General Assembly meeting. The agenda can be changed provided that three quarters (3/4) of the Full Members present or represented in the meeting agree to such a motion.

- 21.5. The General Assembly tasks the General Committee to nominate a facilitator to chair the General Assembly meeting.
- 21.6. Subject to the provisions and limitations stipulated in these Statutes or in the Standing Orders of the Association and without prejudice to article 20.1. of these Statutes, Associate Members, Contract Partners and guests invited by the President, the General Committee or the General Assembly (hereinafter referred to as the "**General Assembly Guests**") may attend the General Assembly meeting. The General Committee members and the Executive Director attend the General Assembly meeting
- 21.7. Further meeting rules of the General Assembly may be adopted in the Standing Orders.

## **Article 22 – Voting and quorum**

- 22.1. Only Full Members are entitled to vote. Each Full Member shall have one (1) vote.
- 22.2. Associate Members, Contract Partners and General Assembly Guests invited by the President, the General Committee or the General Assembly may attend the General Assembly meeting without the right to vote.  
The members of the General Committee and the Executive Director attend the General Assembly meeting without the right to vote.
- 22.3. Any Full Member may be represented at the General Assembly by another Full Member by virtue of an official written proxy to be sent by the concerned National Canine Organisation to the Executive Director at the latest seven (7) calendar days (CET) before the date of the General Assembly meeting. Each Full Member may only hold one (1) proxy for another Full Member.  
As an exception to the previous paragraph, a Full Member's Delegate or a third party may act on behalf of an unlimited number of Full Members by virtue of a written proxy, if the Belgian law requires that the decisions of the General Assembly must be certified by a notarial deed.

- 22.4. The General Assembly shall be deemed validly constituted and can take decisions regardless of the number of the Full Members present or represented in the meeting.
- 22.5. Unless these Statutes or the Law of 27 June 1921 require another majority, decisions on proposals must be taken by the General Assembly by a simple majority of the votes of the Full Members present or represented in the meeting. Abstentions, blank or invalid votes are not taken into account for the calculation of the majority.
- 22.6. The election of candidates takes place by secret ballot, unless the General Assembly decides otherwise.
- The candidates with an absolute majority of the votes of the Full Members present or represented in the meeting are elected in sequence according to the number of votes they have obtained. Abstentions, blank or invalid votes are disregarded for the calculation of the absolute majority.
- Should an insufficient number of candidates be elected with an absolute majority, a second vote shall be held immediately afterwards. The number of candidates required is elected according to the number of votes they have received following the simple majority principle. Abstention, blank or invalid votes are disregarded for the calculation of the simple majority.
- Further rules regarding elections of candidates may be laid down in the procedure described in the Standing Orders.
- 22.7. Voting can be done by show of hand, by secret ballot or by electronic means on site. Voting by secret ballot takes place for elections of candidates in accordance with article 22.6. of these Statutes, for the election of the respective Members to host the World Dog Show for the subsequent five (5) years, on sensitive matters, and for any other purposes upon request of a minimum of one third (1/3) of the Full Members present at the General Assembly meeting.
- Voting by electronic means on site cannot be done for the election of candidates.
- 22.8. In urgent cases, upon request of the General Committee or in cases approved by the General Assembly, a written decision-making procedure may be launched in which the General Assembly may vote in a ballot without personal meeting, i.e. by fax, by e-mail, by exchange of written letter.
- The calling notice for written decision-making procedure shall be sent together with the text of the proposal and all supporting documents for decision-making purposes as described in article 21.4. of these Statutes to all Full Members at least thirty (30) days before the deadline for voting.
- A Full Member giving no response or comment before the expiration of the deadline of voting to the President is deemed abstaining from voting.
- Any Full Member may in the course of the written decision-making procedure request that the proposal is decided in a scheduled General Assembly meeting. If such request is expressed by more than one quarter (1/4) of the Full Members, the matter shall be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the General Assembly convened in accordance with article 21.3 and 21.4 of the present Statutes.
- The majority and quorum requirements and any other voting rules as outlined in the present section of the Statutes shall apply accordingly.

## **Article 23 – Minutes of the meeting**

- 23.1. The minutes of the General Assembly, including a record of all decisions of the General Assembly shall be drawn up under the responsibility of and signed by the person chairing the General Assembly and the appointed Secretary.  
A copy of the minutes of the meeting in the four (4) working languages of the Association shall be sent to all Members and Contract Partners by post mail, e-mail or by any other means of communication within forty-five (45) calendar days of the meeting.
- 23.2. The original minutes of the General Assembly meeting have to be entered into a separate electronic or physical register, signed by the President and the Secretary and kept at the Head Office of the Association, where it must be made available to all Members and Contract Partners for consultation.
- 23.3. Further provisions regarding the decision making process and the voting of the General Assembly as well as the minutes of meeting may be adopted in the Standing Orders.

## **Article 24 – Amendment to the Statutes and Standing Orders**

- 24.1. Any proposal aimed at amending these Statutes or the Standing Orders must emanate from the General Committee, or from a Full Member of the Association.
- 24.2. The General Assembly shall be deemed validly constituted and has the quorum to resolve on the amendment of the Statutes or the Standing Orders if at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Full Members are present or represented in the meeting.  
If this quorum is not reached at said General Assembly meeting, a second General Assembly meeting for the same purpose shall be convened which can definitively and validly resolve on the proposal, by the same majority of votes provided for in article 24.3 of these Statutes, irrespective of the number of Full Members present or represented in the meeting, at the earliest within one (1) month following the first General Assembly meeting.
- 24.3. Unless otherwise foreseen by law, a resolution regarding the amendment of the Statutes or the Standing Orders must be taken by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes of the Full Members present or represented in the meeting.  
If the amendment of the Statutes relates to one of the aims of the Association stipulated in article 3.1., a) and 3.1., b) of these Statutes, the resolution must be taken by a three-quarter (3/4) majority of the Full Members present or represented in the meeting.  
Abstentions, blank or invalid votes do not count in the calculation of the majority.
- 24.4. Amendments to the Statutes will only come into effect once the publication and approval conditions have been fulfilled according to the Law of 27 June 1921.

## **SECTION 4.2. GENERAL COMMITTEE**

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### **Article 25 – Powers**

25.1. The General Committee has all the powers that have been expressly conferred on it by law or these Statutes, i.e. all powers of management and administration of the Association in accordance with the applicable laws, these Statutes and the decisions of the General Assembly.

In particular, the powers of the General Committee include, but are not limited to the following:

- a) to realize the aims set out in these Statutes;
- b) to implement the decisions of the General Assembly;
- c) to ensure that the FCI Governing Rules are observed;
- d) to ensure that legal and financial requirements are met, including due fulfilment of accounting requirements, in particular to draw up and submit for approval to the General Assembly the activity plan and the budget (including any amendments thereto) for the two (2) following financial years, the financial report, the activity report, the General Committee report and the annual accounts of the two (2) previous financial years;
- e) to validate and execute necessary and obligated expenses which are not expressly contained in the approved budget of the Association of the concerned financial year and to submit them for final approval to the next General Assembly;
- f) to create temporary Commissions and Working Groups, to approve the work and the programme of the Commissions, the temporary Commissions and Working Groups and to assign specific tasks to them;
- g) to approve all of the special regulations drawn up by the Commissions;
- h) to approve the new breeds on a provisional basis and their respective standards;
- i) to approve amendments to the standards;
- j) to announce events;
- k) to draw up and keep up to date the list of show judges and working judges;
- l) to draw up and keep up to date the international directory of kennel names;
- m) to take care of the communications to the press and of the public relations activities;
- n) to select and appoint the Executive Director as well as to dismiss the Executive Director;
- o) to decide on the suspension of a General Committee member according to article 27.1., paragraph 2 of these Statutes;
- p) to elect a Vice-President and a Treasurer from among the General Committee members elected or appointed by the General Assembly and to decide on the task assignments between the General Committee members;
- q) to settle disputes between Members, Contract Partners, Sections or a Commission Member on the one hand and the Association on the other hand and to act as Dispute Resolution Body in compliance with Title VII and VIII of these Statutes;



- r) to decide on matters related to international shows, trials, tests and titles and to take the final decision in cases of uncertainty and disagreement after previous consultation with the organizers of these events;
  - s) to decide on the admission of Partners and on the sanctions against or the exclusion of Contract Partners, to conclude, amend or resign the Partnership Contract or the special Cooperation Agreement with the Contract Partners or the Cooperating Partners;
  - t) to set the amount of all reimbursements;
  - u) to bring or to support legal actions on behalf of the Association;
  - v) to suspend provisionally the Membership or Contract Partnership rights in compliance with article 14.1. of these Statutes;
  - w) to submit proposals and requests to the General Assembly at any time with the exception of changes of the agenda;
  - x) to give its opinion to the General Assembly on any matter or proposal forwarded by the Full Members and the mandatory Commissions;
  - y) to decide on the final agenda of the General Assembly.
- 25.2. The General Committee may delegate specific management or representation powers of the Association regarding legal actions or legal acts involving the Association to one (1) or more members of the General Committee, to the Executive Committee, the Executive Director, to the President or to third parties. In this case, the scope of the delegated powers and the term of the mandate have to be specified.
- 25.3. Without prejudice to article 25.2. of these Statutes, the General Committee delegates the day-to-day management powers of the Association, including authority to sign on behalf of the Association and powers of representation relating to such day-to-day management to the Executive Director of the Association or one (1) General Committee member.
- The day-to-day management is to ensure the operational implementation, execution and achievement of the decisions taken by the General Committee. It covers all acts that are driven by the needs of the daily life of the Association and that due to their level of importance and the requirement of a prompt solution do not justify the intervention of the General Committee itself.
- Further details regarding the powers and delegation of powers of the General Committee may be stipulated in the Standing Orders.

## **Article 26 – Composition**

- 26.1. The General Committee shall be composed of at least and maximum nine (9) members. Six (6) General Committee members including the President shall be elected by the General Assembly.
- In addition, the General Assembly is bound to formally appoint as General Committee member the Section Representative of each Section designated by the respective Section General Assembly as referred to in article 17.2. of these Statutes.

Without prejudice to article 26.3., last paragraph of these Statutes, when a new Section Representative is designated to sit on the General Committee, he provisionally enjoys all the rights of a General Committee member as from the date of the very first General Committee meeting following his designation by the respective Section General Assembly until the next General Assembly of the Association which will appoint him definitively.

- 26.2. Only natural persons may be designated as Section Representative or proposed as candidate for election for a General Committee position.

The designated Section Representatives or the candidates for election must have their Legal Residence in the Full Member country which proposes and supports them. Only one (1) natural person per Full Member of the Association can hold a position as member of the General Committee. This rule applies to the General Committee members elected by the General Assembly and to the Section Representatives designated by the Sections.

A Section Representative on the General Committee cannot stand simultaneously for election as General Committee member by the General Assembly.

New candidates for election and outgoing members of the General Committee can only be elected by the General Assembly to a General Committee position, if they are supported by the Full Member's country in which they have their Legal Residence.

- 26.3. The General Assembly elects the General Committee members from the submitted candidatures according to the rotating system stipulated in article 26.3., paragraph 2, of these Statutes, and appoints the designated Section Representatives for a four-year term.

The General Assembly elects, every two (2) years, three (3) General Committee members. Every two (2) years the General Assembly will elect the President of the Association. Without prejudice to article 26.1., last paragraph, of these Statutes, each General Committee member and the President hold their position as from the date of the very first General Committee meeting following the General Assembly on which they were elected or appointed.

- 26.4. Further provisions regarding the composition of the General Committee, the designation of the Section Representatives, the candidates, election, and appointment for a General Committee member position may be specified in the Standing Orders of the Association.

## **Article 27 – End of General Committee membership**

27.1. The tenure of a General Committee member shall end by (i) the death, the resignation or the legal disqualification of the General Committee member, (ii) the revocation by the General Assembly or (iii) the expiration of his term.

If a General Committee member seriously violates the FCI Governing Rules or contravenes legal provisions or public order he can be revoked. The General Committee has the power to suspend the General Committee member concerned until the next General Assembly resolves upon his revocation.

The revocation of the General Committee as a whole or of a General Committee member by the General Assembly before the end of the term of their respective mandate shall require a two thirds (2/3) majority of the votes of the Full Members present or represented in the meeting.

The General Committee member whose revocation is proposed has the right to be heard. The General Assembly can hear any other third party concerned, if necessary. The members of the General Committee are free to resign at any moment by formally giving written notice at the Head Office of the Association.

27.2. If a General Committee member position becomes vacant, the composition of the General Committee will remain unchanged until the first following General Assembly meeting at which the General Assembly shall have the power to elect or appoint a new General Committee member for the remainder of the term of office of his predecessor according to article 26.1, 26.2 and 26.3 of these Statutes.

## **Article 28 – Remuneration**

28.1. All offices within the General Committee are exercised on a voluntary basis. Unless specifically decided otherwise by the General Assembly or in these Statutes, the members of the General Committee shall not be entitled to receive any remuneration in compensation of their duties.

## **Article 29 – Meeting Rules**

29.1. The General Committee meets at least twice a year and as often as it deems necessary upon request of the President, of the majority of the General Committee members or of the Executive Committee.

The calling notice to the General Committee meeting shall be sent in writing, by post or by electronic mail by the Executive Director on behalf of the President and received by every General Committee member at least thirty (30) calendar days before the meeting. The notice includes the draft agenda prepared by the Executive Committee, the date, time and venue of the meeting as well as the supporting documents.

General Committee members are entitled to propose agenda items until at least seven (7) calendar days before the meeting. The agenda will be approved by the General Committee at the beginning of each meeting.

29.2. The General Committee meeting is chaired by the President or, in case of his absence by the Vice-President.

- 29.3. Subject to the provisions and limitations stipulated in these Statutes or in the Standing Orders of the Association and without prejudice to article 26.1 of these Statutes, Members, Contract Partners, experts, guests invited by the President or the General Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "**General Committee Guests**") may attend the General Committee meeting.
- The Executive Director attends the meetings of the General Committee.
- Where necessary, the staff of the Head Office may attend the meetings of the General Committee.
- General Committee meetings may be held with or without physical location designated as place of the meeting. General Committee members and the Executive Director, and as the case may be, Members, Contract Partners, experts, General Committee Guests, or the staff may attend the meeting in person.
- They can also participate in the meeting via conference call, video conference, web-conference, by any another electronic means which offers the possibility to General Committee members, Members, Contract Partners, experts, General Committee Guests, the Executive Director or the staff participating in the meeting (i) to hear each other at the same time, (ii) to speak to each other and (iii) as far as General Committee members are concerned, to cast definitively although not simultaneously their vote on the agenda items. Any General Committee member, Member, Contract Partner, expert, General Committee Guest, the Executive Director or the staff participating by such means shall be deemed present at such meeting.
- 29.4. Further meeting rules of the General Committee may be adopted in the Standing Orders.

### **Article 30 – Voting and quorum**

- 30.1. Each General Committee member shall have one (1) vote.
- 30.2. General Committee Guests or the staff may attend the General Committee meetings without the right to vote.
- The Executive Director attends the General Committee meeting without the right to vote.
- 30.3. The General Committee meeting will be deemed validly constituted and has the quorum to take a decision if at least seven (7) General Committee members are present or participate remotely in the meeting.
- 30.4. The General Committee shall take its decisions by an absolute majority of the votes of the General Committee members present or participating remotely in the meeting.
- Abstentions, blank or invalid votes do not count in the calculation of the majority.
- In the case of a tied vote, the President or his deputy has the casting vote.
- 30.5. Voting can be done by show of hand, by secret ballot or by electronic means in real time. Voting by secret ballot takes place for the election of candidates, on sensitive matters and for any other purposes upon request of a minimum of two (2) General Committee members.
- 30.6. Upon request of the President or the Executive Director or in cases approved by the General Committee, a written decision-making procedure may be launched in which the General Committee may vote in a ballot without personal meeting, i.e. by fax, by e-mail, by exchange of written letter.

The calling notice for written decision-making shall be sent together with the text of the proposal and all supporting documents as described in article 29.1. of these Statutes to all General Committee members at least seven (7) calendar days before the deadline for voting. A General Committee member giving no response or comment before the expiration of the deadline of voting to the President is deemed casting an affirmative vote to the extent legally admitted and provided that this clause is clearly indicated in the procedure.

- 30.7. Further provisions on the decision-making process, the voting rights and procedure, the quorum and majority rules of the General Committee may be adopted in the Standing Orders.

### **Article 31 – Minutes of meeting**

- 31.1. The minutes of the General Committee meeting shall be signed by the President and the Executive Director.  
The minutes shall be sent by e-mail to the members of the General Committee no later than fourteen (14) calendar days after the meeting for their formal and final approval by electronic post.
- 31.2. The original minutes of the General Committee have to be entered into a separate electronic or physical register, signed by the President and the Executive Director and have to be kept at the registered office of the Association where they must be made available to General Committee members for information.
- 31.3. Decisions made at the General Committee meeting shall be made available by circular to the Members and Contract Partners not later than thirty (30) calendar days after the meeting.
- 31.4. Further details regarding the recording, the final approval of the minutes of General Committee meeting and their communication to the General Committee members, may be detailed in the Standing Orders.

## **SECTION 4.3.- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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### **Article 32 – Powers**

- 32.1. Subject to the supervision of the General Committee, the Executive Committee may take any resolution concerning the operations and affairs of the Association in view to implement the resolutions of the General Committee, except for powers specifically (i) conferred to the General Committee by the present Statutes or by the Law of 27 June 1921 or (ii) delegated to the Executive Director of the Association.
- 32.2. Subject to the foregoing and to the terms and conditions of these Statutes, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Executive Committee shall have amongst others the following powers:
- a) to take all decisions on urgent matters that cannot be postponed to the next meeting of the General Committee;
  - b) to prepare the General Committee meetings;
  - c) to call upon the President or a member of a Commission to attend the meeting to discuss the activities and finances involved;
  - d) to settle disputes between Members, Contract Partners or a Mandatory Commission Member on the one hand and the Association on the other hand;

- e) to settle in a fair way any problem or dispute that may arise between two (2) or more Members, Contract Partners or with third parties of the Association and where necessary, to launch the FCI Dispute Resolution Procedure before the General Committee as set out in Article 47 of these Statutes.
  - f) to determine and submit for approval to the General Assembly any change of the amount of the bail to be deposited by the plaintiff in the framework of the FCI Dispute Resolution Procedure according to Article 47.10, Para. 1 of these Statutes.
- 32.3. The Vice-President assists and substitutes the President in case of his absence in the General Assembly, the General Committee or otherwise.
- 32.4. The Treasurer supervises the financial and economic affairs of the FCI and enforces the decisions made by the Executive and General Committees. The Treasurer is responsible for:
- a) the general financial oversight of the Association;
  - b) supervising the financial planning and budgeting;
  - c) reporting to the General Committee and General Assembly about the above-mentioned subjects; and
  - d) outlining the current financial status of the Association.

### **Article 33– Composition**

- 33.1. The Executive Committee is a committee of the General Committee and is composed of the President, the Vice-President and the Treasurer.
- 33.2. The President is elected by the General Assembly in accordance with article 37.1 of these Statutes.
- At the first meeting of the General Committee following each ordinary General Assembly meeting at which General Committee members are elected according to Art.26.3 of these Statutes, the General Committee shall elect two (2) General Committee members to serve as Vice-President and Treasurer.
- The Section Representatives are not eligible for a position in the Executive Committee.
- The Executive Committee members shall be elected for a two-year term by the General Committee.
- Without prejudice to article 33.3 of these Statutes, the Executive Committee members shall serve as such until their resignation or until the General Committee elects their successors.
- 33.3. The tenure of an Executive Committee member shall end by (i) the death, the resignation or the legal disqualification of the Executive Committee member, (ii) his dismissal by the General Committee, (iii) his revocation by the General Assembly or (iv) the expiration of his term.
- The dismissal of the Executive Committee as a whole or of an Executive Committee member by the General Committee before the end of the term of their respective mandate shall require an absolute majority of the votes of the General Committee members present or participating remotely in the meeting.
- The Executive Committee members are free to resign at any moment by formally giving written notice at the Head Office.

In case of vacancy of an Executive Committee position other than the President, the General Committee has the power to elect another Executive Committee member for the remainder of the term of office of his predecessor among the eligible General Committee members to fill such vacancy.

- 33.4. Unless specifically decided otherwise by the General Assembly or in the present Statutes, the members of the Executive Committee shall not be entitled to receive any remuneration.

### **Article 34– Meeting Rules**

- 34.1. The Executive Committee meets when necessary.

The calling notice to the Executive Committee meeting shall be sent in writing, by post or by electronic mail by the Executive Director on behalf of the President and received by every Executive Committee member at least thirty (30) calendar days before the meeting. The notice includes the agenda prepared by the President and the Executive Director, the date, time and venue of the meeting as well as the supporting documents.

Executive Committee members are entitled to add agenda items at the beginning of each meeting.

- 34.2. The Executive Committee meeting is chaired by the President or, in case of his absence by the Vice-President.

- 34.3. Subject to the provisions and limitations stipulated in these Statutes or in the Standing Orders of the Association and without llas to article 33.1. of these Statutes, Members, Contract Partners, General Committee members, members of a Commission, experts, guests invited by the President or the Executive Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "**Executive Committee Guests**") may attend the Executive Committee meeting.

The Executive Director attends the meetings of the Executive Committee.

Where necessary, the staff of the Head Office may attend the meetings of the Executive Committee.

Executive Committee meetings may be held with or without physical location designated as place of the meeting. Executive Committee members and the Executive Director, and as the case may be, Executive Committee Guests or the staff may attend the meeting in person. They can also participate in the meeting by conference call, video conference, web-conference, by any another electronic means which offers the possibility to Executive Committee members, Executive Director, the Executive Committee Guests or the staff participating in the meeting (i) to hear each other at the same time, (ii) to speak to each other and (iii) as far as Executive Committee Members are concerned, to cast definitively although not simultaneously their vote on the agenda items. Any Executive Committee member, the, Executive Committee Guests, the Executive Director or the staff participating by such means shall be deemed present at such meeting.

- 34.4. Further provisions regarding the composition, task assignments within the Executive Committee and the meeting rules of the Executive Committee may be adopted in the Standing Orders.

## **Article 35 – Voting and quorum**

- 35.1. Each Executive Committee member shall have one (1) vote.
- 35.2. Executive Committee Guests or the staff may attend the Executive Committee meetings without the right to vote.  
The Executive Director attends the Executive Committee meeting without the right to vote.
- 35.3. The Executive Committee meeting will be deemed validly constituted and has the quorum to take a decision if at least two (2) Executive Committee members are present or participate remotely in the meeting.
- 35.4. The Executive Committee shall take its decisions by an absolute majority of the votes of the Executive Committee members present or participating remotely in the meeting.  
Abstentions, blank or invalid votes do not count in the calculation of the majority.  
In the case of a tied vote, the President or his deputy has the casting vote.
- 35.5. The provisions provided for in article 30.5 to article 30.7 of these Statutes for the General Committee meeting apply accordingly to Executive Committee meeting.
- 35.6. Further provisions on the decision-making process, the voting rights and procedure, the quorum and majority rules of the Executive Committee may be adopted in the Standing Orders.

## **Article 36 – Minutes of meeting**

- 36.1. The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting shall be signed by the President and the Executive Director.  
The minutes shall be sent by e-mail to the members of the Executive Committee no later than fourteen (14) calendar days after the meeting for their formal and final approval by electronic post.  
A copy of the minutes shall be made available to all the members of the General Committee not later than seven (7) calendar days after their formal and final approval by the Executive Committee.
- 36.2. The original minutes of the Executive Committee have to be entered into a separate electronic or physical register, signed by the President and the Executive Director and have to be kept at the Head Office of the Association.
- 36.3. Further details regarding the recording, the final approval of the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting and their communication to the General Committee members, may be detailed in the Standing Orders.

## **SECTION 4.4.- PRESIDENT**

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### **Article 37 – President**

- 37.1. The General Assembly shall elect among the elected General Committee members by secret ballot the President for a period of two (2) years according to article 26.1 and 26.3 of these Statutes.
- 37.2. The mandate of the President shall end according to article 27.1 of these Statutes.



- 37.3. If the position of the President becomes vacant, the General Committee shall vote for the Vice-President who will serve as acting President until the next General Assembly.
- 37.4. The President is a legal representative of the Association. He will be responsible for the overall guidance of the General Committee and the Executive Committee and that the latter exercise their powers as set out in article 25 and 32 of these Statutes. In particular, the responsibilities of the President include the following:
- a) to ensure together with the Executive Director the implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly, the General Committee and of the Executive Committee;
  - b) In urgent cases, to take any decisions on behalf of the Executive and General Committees and to submit these decisions for approval to the General Committee as soon as possible;
  - c) to chair and conduct the meetings of the General Committee and the Executive Committee. If he is permanently or temporarily prevented from performing his official function, these meetings are chaired and conducted by the Vice-President;
  - d) to take the initiative to launch legal proceedings.

## **SECTION 4.5.- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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### **Article 38 – Executive Director**

- 38.1. The Executive Director is the Chief Executive Officer of the Head Office. He is an employee of the Association and is selected and appointed for an indefinite duration by the General Committee.
- 38.2. The mandate of the Executive Director shall end by the death, the resignation or the legal disqualification of the Executive Director or the dismissal of the Executive Director by the General Committee.
- 38.3. The Executive Director is free to resign according to his contract at any moment by formally giving written notice to the President at the Head Office of the Association.
- 38.4. If the Executive Director is prevented by circumstances beyond his control from fulfilling his position for more than thirty (30) consecutive calendar days, the General Committee takes back the day-to-day management powers and may appoint an Interim Director to exercise the day-to-day management powers – if possible following the advice of the Executive Director - until he is taking back his position.
- 38.5. The Executive Director ensures the operational implementation and execution of the decisions taken by the General Assembly and the General Committee.  
The Executive Director shall be responsible for the (i) day-to-day management of the Association formally delegated to him by the General Committee according to article 25.3 of these Statutes and (ii) for any other specific management or representation powers beyond said day-to-day management powers regarding legal actions or legal acts involving the Association delegated to him according to article 25.2 of these Statutes.

He shall be responsible, amongst others according to the instructions from the President for:

- a) managing and supervising the accounts of the Association in a due and proper manner;
- b) writing the minutes for the meetings of the General Assembly, the Executive and General Committees;
- c) handling the FCI correspondence;
- d) maintaining the relations with the Sections, Members, Committees and Commissions;
- e) organising the Head Office;
- f) appointing and dismissing of staff working in the Head Office;
- g) presenting a report on the Head Office's activities and statistics of general interest to the General Assembly.

38.6. The Executive Director shall be authorised to sub-delegate, under his own responsibility, one (1) or more powers delegated to him within the scope of the day-to-day management or within the scope of the specific management or representation powers going beyond said day-to-day management within the limitations set out in the present Statutes, the Standing Orders or the relevant delegation of powers to staff members or third parties.

38.7. The Executive Director is under the supervision of the General Committee and shall report to the latter on the work and activities performed by him and the Head Office.

38.8. Without prejudice to article 43 of these Statutes, the Executive Director validly represents the Association alone in the day-to-day management of the Association towards third parties.

38.9. Further provisions on the appointment, the dismissal, the powers and responsibilities, sub-delegation of powers, the rights and duties of the Executive Director may be adopted in the Standing Orders.

## **SECTION 4.6.- HEAD OFFICE**

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### **Article 39 – Head Office**

39.1. Under the authority and direction of the Executive Director, the Head Office supports the General Committee, the Executive Committee and the General Assembly with the administrative day-to-day management of the Association and is responsible for the fulfilment of all of the administrative work of the Association.

39.2. Further provision regarding the competences and the functioning of the Head Office of the Association may be stipulated in the Standing Orders.

## **SECTION 4.7.- COMMISSIONS**

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### **Article 40 – General provisions**

40.1. The General Assembly establishes the mandatory and non-mandatory Commissions for advisory purposes (hereinafter both referred to as the "**Commissions**").

40.2. The Commissions are responsible to the General Committee and must submit reports on their activities.

40.3. The General Committee can determine the tasks of the mandatory Commissions.

- 40.4. Any Commission can enlist the assistance of a maximum of two (2) experts where the particular nature of the problems concerned requires such support.
- 40.5. The Executive Director shall forward the minutes of the Commission meetings and any other written reports exclusively to (i) the Commission Members and the Member or Contract Partner by which the Commission Member has been appointed as well as (ii) to the General Committee within eight (8) weeks of the meeting at the latest.  
Proposals to the General Committee will be sent separately from the minutes.
- 40.6. All the minutes of the commissions' meetings must be sent to the Members and Contract Partners, as soon as they have been commented and/or approved by the General Committee.
- 40.7. The general provisions stipulated in articles 40.2 to 40.6 of these Statutes shall not apply to the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission.

### **Article 41 – Mandatory Commissions**

41.1. The Association has the following mandatory Commissions:

1. the Scientific Commission
2. the Standards Commission
3. the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission

These three (3) mandatory Commissions are made up of a maximum of six (6) Commission Members each elected by the General Assembly. Mandatory Commission Members cannot be members of the General Committee at the same time. Only one (1) person per country whose National Canine Organisation is a Full Member of the Association can be Commission Member of a mandatory Commission. A natural person can only be Member of one (1) Mandatory Commission.

A National Canine Organisation can only nominate natural persons who have their Legal residence in the country of the concerned National Canine Organisation as its official mandatory Commission Member.

New candidates and outgoing Commission Members can be elected only if they are supported by their own National Canine Organisation.

The candidates shall be elected for a term of office of four (4) years.

- 41.2. In the event of death or permanent disability or any other valid reason preventing a mandatory Commission Member from carrying out his duties, the General Committee can appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term.
- 41.3 Each Commission member shall have one (1) vote and must attend the Commission meeting in person. A proxy vote is not allowed.

### **Article 42 – Non-mandatory Commissions**

- 42.1. At the General Assembly, all the Members and Contract Partners shall designate the non-mandatory Commissions in which they wish to have a Commission Member. The National Canine Organisations shall nominate one (1) Commission Member for each Commission on which they are represented. A National Canine Organisation can only nominate natural persons who have their Legal residence in the country of the concerned National Canine Organisation as its official Commission Member.

The Commission Member nominated must have the necessary qualifications and knowledge to carry out his duties.

The General Committee will determine the deadline to be observed by the Members and Contract Partners with regard to submitting the list of these Commissions and the names of the Commission Members.

- 42.2. After each General Assembly, the non-mandatory Commissions shall elect one (1) of their Commission Members as President. A National Canine Organisation represented on a Commission can nominate a substitute in the case of its Commission Member being permanently or temporarily unable to carry out his duties. The presidents of the non-mandatory Commissions are responsible for the administration of the meetings (with the exception of sending invitations to meetings and the agendas). Non-mandatory Commission Presidents cannot be members of the General Committee at the same time.
- Every non-mandatory Commission will be assigned a liaison Agent, in charge of communication and relations with the General Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "**Liaison Agent**"). This Liaison Agent is a member of the General Committee.
- 42.3. Associate Members can be represented in the non-mandatory Commissions and have the right to speak without the right to vote.
- Contract Partners can attend the meetings but they do not have the right to vote or to speak.
- 42.4. The meetings are convened by the respective presidents via the Executive Director at least sixty (60) calendar days before the date set for the meeting.
- 42.5. Only Commission members coming from Full Members are entitled to vote. Each said Commission member shall have one (1) vote and must attend the non-mandatory Commission meeting in person. A proxy vote is not allowed.

## **Title V. - REPRESENTATION**

### **Article 43 – Representation**

- 43.1. Unless otherwise stipulated in these Statutes and without prejudice to article 25.2. and 25.3 of these Statutes, the Association is validly represented with respect to all legal acts towards third parties (i) by the General Committee or (ii) by two members of the Executive Committee jointly or (iii) by the President and the Executive Director jointly who will not have to justify to third parties the powers conferred to this end.
- 43.2. Without prejudice to article 37.4 of these Statutes, the Association shall be validly represented in all legal actions or arbitration, as plaintiff or defendant before courts, tribunals, or other jurisdictions by (i) the Executive Director alone or (ii) by the President alone.

## **Title VI. - HONORARY PRESIDENT AND HONORARY MEMBERS**

### **Article 44 – Honorary president and honorary members**

- 44.1. The General Assembly can bestow the title of honorary president or honorary member on any person for meritorious service to the Association.
- 44.2. The General Committee shall propose the candidates.
- 44.3. The honorary president or honorary member can attend the General Assembly at his own expenses with the right to speak, but in this capacity, not with the right to vote.

## **Title VII. – DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

### **Article 45 – General provisions**

- 45.1. Each dispute resolution procedure of the FCI or of a Member must comply with the following common minimum standards for procedural rights:
  - a) Right of adversarial procedure. The natural person or legal entity that is subject to a dispute resolution procedure shall have his rights of defence guaranteed and the possibility to set out his questions and arguments by written means or by a physical hearing to the authorised dispute resolution bodies.
  - b) Right of access. The natural person or legal entity who is subject to a dispute resolution procedure shall have the right of access to the all the relevant supporting documentary evidences.
  - c) Right of legal certainty. The authorised dispute resolution bodies conducting the dispute resolution procedure shall take a final decision within a reasonable time. This decision shall be duly motivated.
  - d) Period of limitation. Facts that may constitute a violation of the FCI Governing Rules and that date more than one (1) year ago, shall no longer be a ground for opening a dispute resolution procedure or imposing sanctions.
- 45.2. Disputes between Members, Contract Partners, Sections or a Commission Member on the one hand and the Association on the other hand shall be settled by the Executive Committee and the General Committee in compliance with article 13, 14 and 15 as well as 49, 50 and 51 of these Statutes.
- 45.3. Disputes, complaints and incidents as mentioned in article 47.1 of these Statutes shall be settled by the dispute resolution procedure as laid down in Article 47 of these Statutes (hereinafter referred to as the "**FCI Dispute Resolution Procedure**").

## **Article 46 - Dispute Resolution Bodies**

46.1. The Executive Committee, the General Committee, the General Assembly and the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "**Dispute Resolution Bodies**") will resolve disputes, complaints and incidents referred to under article 45.3. of these Statutes, whether arising from misconduct or any other violation of the FCI Governing Rules.

The Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission is composed of five (5) natural persons (three (3) effective members and two (2) substitute members) who are not affiliated or do not have any official relationships to any Disputing Party involved.

The General Assembly shall elect the chairperson and the other members of the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission for a period of four (4) years. Two (2) members of the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission must have a confirmed legal background and the three (3) other members must have experience in dogs and dogdom. The president of the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission must be one of the members who has a confirmed legal background.

General Committee members are not eligible to become a member of the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission.

## **Article 47 – FCI Dispute Resolution Procedure**

47.1. Without prejudice to article 13, 14 and 15 of these Statutes, the Dispute Resolution Bodies shall act on disputes, complaints or incidents between Members, between Contract Partners or between (a) Member(s) and (a) Contract Partner(s) (hereinafter referred to as the "**Disputing Parties**").

47.2. The subject of the disputes or complaints can be any misconduct or any kind of violation of the FCI Governing Rules.

47.3. Complaints must be made to the Executive Director in compliance with the time guidelines and filing formalities stipulated in the Standing Orders.

47.4. The Executive Committee shall try to settle in a fair way any dispute, complaint or incident (hereinafter referred to as the "**Disciplinary Matter**") that may arise between Disputing Parties. If a result is not obtained within thirty (30) calendar days as from the date of notification of the complaint, dispute or incident to the Association, the Executive Director shall upon instruction of the Executive Committee refer the Disciplinary Matter to the General Committee.

47.5. The General Committee shall make a first assessment of the Disciplinary Matter. Where necessary, the General Committee may further investigate the Disciplinary Matter (hereinafter referred to as the "**Preliminary Investigation**").

47.6. On completion of the Preliminary Investigation, the General Committee shall make a written report to the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission.

47.7. The Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission is to the exclusion of any other body of the Association in charge of the further examination of the Disciplinary Matter.

The Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission shall only handle a Disciplinary Matter upon respective request of the General Committee laid down in the written report.

Without prejudice to article 13, 14 and 15 of these Statutes and the respective powers of the General Assembly and the General Committee, the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission shall decide on the sanctions provided for in the FCI Governing Rules.

The Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission shall give written reasons for its decisions and for any sanction imposed or any proposal of sanction to be imposed by the General Committee or the General Assembly. Copies shall be provided to the Disputing Parties.

- 47.8. Without prejudice to articles 13, 14 and 15 of these Statutes and the respective powers of the General Assembly and the General Committee, any of the Disputing Parties can appeal the decisions of the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission to the General Assembly. Such appeal does not have suspensive effect. The decisions of the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission shall be effective as of the date of notification of the decision and shall apply until the next General Assembly takes the final decision.
- 47.9. The General Committee is obliged to enforce the decisions of the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission.
- 47.10. The plaintiff will deposit with the filing of a complaint a bail as laid down in the Standing Orders. Any change of the amount of the bail shall be determined by the Executive Committee and submitted for final approval to the General Assembly. The Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission shall fix the costs of the FCI Disputes Resolution Procedure, including among others the fees and expenses of the meeting(s) of the General Committee and the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission. Unless otherwise decided by the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission, the costs of the Disputes Resolution Procedure shall be borne by the unsuccessful Disputing Party.
- 47.11 Further provisions regarding the dispute resolution, the appointment of the Dispute Resolution Bodies, the FCI Dispute Resolution Procedure may be laid down in the Standing Orders.

## **Title VIII. SANCTIONS**

### **Article 48 – General provisions**

- 48.1. The General Committee, the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission or the General Assembly shall, depending on the type of offences, impose sanctions on Members and Contract Partners of the Association for misconduct or any kind of violation of the FCI Governing Rules. The sanctions imposed on a Member or Contract Partner shall be recognised by all other Members, Contract Partners and Sections of the Association. In all the cases, the rights of defence will be guaranteed by law.
- 48.2. There are three (3) types of offences which are classified according to their severity:
- a) Misconduct: minor violation of the FCI Governing Rules, unless frequently repeated.

- b) Serious misconduct: repetition of a minor violation of the FCI Governing Rules, failure to comply with the demand for full and appropriate corrective action; serious violation of the FCI Governing Rules, non-payment of Membership or Contract Partnership fees or invoices in general for more than four (4) months from the invoice due date; or more in general, a conduct contrary to the aim of the Association and/or harming the Association or any of its Members or Contract Partners .
- c) Gross misconduct: repetition of a serious violation of the FCI Governing Rules, gross violation of the FCI Governing Rules, non-payment of Membership or Contract Partnership fees or invoices in general for more than six (6) months from the invoice due date, or more in general, a conduct contrary to the aim of the Association and/or harming the Association or any of its Members or Contract Partners.

### **Article 49 – Sanctions against Full and Associate Members**

- 49.1. The following sanction can be imposed against Full and Associate Members depending on the type of offences listed in article 48.2. of these Statutes:
- a) Misconduct: a written warning with a demand for full and appropriate corrective action.
  - b) Serious misconduct: suspension of Membership rights, including the suspension from activities and/or events under the FCI patronage.
  - c) Gross misconduct: exclusion from the Association or downgrading from Full Member to Associate member.
- 49.2. The General Committee has the power to impose the sanctions mentioned under article 49.1. a) and b) of these Statutes upon decision of the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission or on its own initiative. The General Committee shall upon decision of the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission or on its own initiative propose to the General Assembly to impose the sanctions mentioned under article 49.1. c) of these Statutes in accordance with article 13.3. and 15 of these Statutes.

### **Article 50 – Sanctions against Contract Partners**

- 50.1. The following sanction can be imposed in accordance with article 25.1. s) of these Statutes by the General Committee upon decision of the Disciplinary and Arbitration Commission or on its own initiative against Contract Partners depending on the type of offences listed in article 48.2. of these Statutes:
- a) Misconduct: a written warning with a demand for full and appropriate corrective action.
  - b) Serious misconduct: where applicable, suspension of Contract Partnership rights, including the suspension from activities and/or events under the FCI patronage.
  - c) Gross misconduct: where applicable, exclusion from the Association or prohibition to issue export pedigrees.



## **Title IX. - FINANCES**

### **Article 51 – Financial Resources**

51.1. The financial resources of the Association comprise, in particular:

- a) Membership and Contract Partnership fees;
- b) contracts, gifts and donations, grants, subsidies assets inherited or received as a bequest or legacy, capital proceed or any other legally allowed resources that might be paid or granted to the Association;
- c) other resources from the activities placed under the aegis of the Association.

51.2. The Association may accept donations provided that they do not affect its independence. Donations to the Association, either from hand to hand or by testament, shall not have effect if they are not authorized and do not comply with the applicable law.

### **Article 52 – Budget and annual accounts**

52.1. The financial year of the Association shall start on 1<sup>st</sup> January and end on 31<sup>st</sup> December of each calendar year.

52.2. The balance sheets and annual account for the previous financial year and the budget for the following year shall be drawn up on 1<sup>st</sup> March, at the latest each year. The balance sheets, the annual accounts and the budgets are provisionally validated by the General Committee, and presented together with the audit reports for final approval at the subsequent General Assembly.

52.3. Necessary and obligated expenses which are not expressly contained in the approved budget of the Association of the concerned financial year can be validated and executed by the General Committee provided that they are approved by the General Assembly at its next meeting.

### **Article 53 – Reimbursement of meeting expenses**

53.1. Meeting expenses (travelling and accommodation) of the General Committee, the Executive Committee, the mandatory Commissions as well as meetings mandated by the General Committee are borne by the Association.

### **Article 54 – Financial Commission – External Audit**

54.1. The Financial Commission is composed of three (3) members. Every two (2) years, the General Assembly appoints the Financial Commission among the natural persons nominated by each Section it being understood that each Section nominates one (1) Financial Commission member.

Members of the Financial Commission cannot be a member of their respective Section's General Committee.

- 54.2. The Financial Commission meets once (1) a year. If exceptional circumstances would require it, an additional meeting can be organised.  
The Financial Commission has unlimited access to all financial information and to all persons working for the Association in financial matters.  
The Financial Commission shall maintain the confidentiality of the Confidential Information made available or sent to them in the frame of their duties.  
The Financial Commission is validly constituted if at least two (2) members are present.
- 54.3. The Financial Commission has an internal financial auditing mission which includes and is limited to the following:
- a) checking the accuracy, the completeness and the consistency of the accountancy and the financial information of the Association. This includes the examination of the yearly balance sheets and the annual accounts;
  - b) supervising of the integrity of the financial reporting process of the Association;
  - c) analysing and determining whether the approved budget of the concerned financial year was spent according to the activity plan and to the instructions of the General Committee and/or the General Assembly;
  - d) presenting a financial written report to the General Committee and to the General Assembly; The General Committee can ask for a written report from the Financial Committee at any time;
  - e) if required, making recommendations to the General Committee on the appointment or reappointment of the External Auditor, his independence and his fees, especially with respect to ancillary services rendered.
- 54.4. The travelling and accommodation costs of the Financial Commission members are borne by the Association.
- 54.5. Without prejudice to the internal financial auditing mission of the Financial Commission as set out in articles 54.3. of these Statutes, the annual accounts of the Association shall be audited by one (1) or more independent external auditors (hereinafter referred to as the "**External Auditor**"), if required by law.
- 54.6. Further provisions on the budget, the annual accounts, the financial regulations, the financial resources and the composition or functioning of the Financial Commission of the Association may be adopted in the Standing Orders.

## **Title X. DISSOLUTION – ALLOCATION OF NET ASSETS**

### **Article 55 – Dissolution**

- 55.1. The General Assembly shall be deemed validly constituted and has the quorum to resolve on the dissolution of the Association when at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Full Members are present or represented in the meeting.  
If this quorum is not reached, a second General Assembly meeting for the same purpose shall be convened which can definitively and validly resolve on the proposal, by the same majority of votes provided for in article 55.2 of these Statutes, irrespective of the number of Full Members present or represented in the meeting, at the earliest within thirty (30) calendar days following the first General Assembly meeting.
- 55.2. Unless otherwise foreseen by law, a resolution regarding the dissolution of the Association shall only be adopted if passed unanimously by the Full members present or represented in the meeting.  
Abstentions, blank or invalid votes do not count in the calculation of the majority.
- 55.3. In the event of voluntary dissolution, the General Assembly will determine in the resolution of dissolution the modalities of liquidation, appoint two (2) liquidators, determine their powers and indicate the allocation of the net assets of the Association.  
In all cases of voluntary dissolution or judicial dissolution by the court at any moment in time or for any reason whatsoever, the net assets of the dissolved Association will be allocated to not-for-profit organisations with similar objectives or aims to those pursued by the Association, as designated by the General Assembly.

## **Title XI. HIERARCHY OF NORMS**

### **Article 56 – Hierarchy of norms**

- 56.1. Standing Orders shall be drawn up by the General Committee and adopted by the General Assembly in order to implement and further detail these Statutes as well as to facilitate the regulation and management of the Association.  
The Standing Orders are available to all Members, Contract Partners and may be amended according to the rules provided for in article 19.2. p) of these Statutes.  
The Standing Orders complete the Statutes and subordinate the latter. In the case of any contradiction between the Standing Orders and the Statutes, the latter shall prevail.
- 56.2. General Assembly decisions further detail these Statutes with regard to the overall strategy and policies of the Association.
- 56.3. General Committee decisions further detail these Statutes with regard to the management of the Association including administrations, organisation, human resources and financial management of the Association.
- 56.4. Regulations, Circulars and Communications further detail the General Assembly or General Committee decisions.

56.5. The following hierarchy of norms applies within the Association:

- a) Statutes;
- b) Standing Orders;
- c) General Assembly decisions;
- d) General Committee decisions;
- e) regulations, circulars and communications.

56.6. In the case of any contradiction between two (2) or more norms of the Association of a different level, the norm mentioned in the higher level shall prevail over the norm mentioned in the lower level of the above mentioned hierarchy of norms.

56.7. In the case of any contradiction between two (2) or more norms of the Association of the same level, the most recently adopted norm shall prevail over any formerly adopted norm.

## **Title XII. FINAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 57 – Entry into force and appeal of the decisions of the General Assembly**

57.1. Without prejudice to article 24.4 of these Statutes, decisions passed by the General Assembly, with the exception of amendments to these Statutes shall enter into force on the date set by the General Assembly.

57.2. Any decision of the General Assembly can be appealed within a ninety (90)-day deadline after it became effective.

### **Article 58 – Remuneration**

58.1. Without prejudice to article 28 and 53 of these Statutes, all offices within the Association are exercised on a voluntary basis. Unless specifically decided otherwise by the General Assembly or in these Statutes, the office holders shall not be entitled to receive any remuneration in compensation of their duties.

### **Article 59 – Official working and authoritative languages**

59.1. English, French, German and Spanish are the official working languages of the Association (hereinafter referred to as the "**FCI Official Working Languages**"). They are used at the General Assembly.

59.2. English is the official working language used at the General Committee meetings. English is the official and authoritative language for minutes, correspondence and announcements.

59.3. The language used for the official documents and relations with Belgian national authorities shall be French. In the event of disputes concerning the Statutes and the Standing Orders, the official published French version of the Statutes shall prevail and is the only relevant version.

59.4. The Statutes, the Standing orders, the decisions and important announcements of the Association shall be published in the four (4) FCI Official Working Languages.

## **Article 60 – FCI logo**

- 60.1. The use of the FCI logo is restricted to the Members and Contract Partners.
- 60.2. Except as provided in article 60.1. of these Statutes, the FCI logo can be used by third parties provided that the General Committee and/or the Member concerned have given their approval.
- 60.3. The FCI logo must be exclusively used in its official format. It must appear on all official publications and documents of the Members and Contract Partners and must be clearly visible at all international events.

## **Article 61 – Governing law**

- 61.1. Anything that is not explicitly provided for in these Statutes, in particular the publications for the Annexes to the Moniteur belge, shall be settled according to the provisions of Title III of the Law of 27 June 1921.
- 61.2. Any dispute in connection with these Statutes, the Standing Orders and the other FCI Governing Rules and/or any decision of one of the bodies or institutions of the Association shall be governed by Belgian law.

## **Article 62 – Jurisdiction**

- 62.1. Any dispute in connection with these Statutes, the Standing Orders and the other FCI Governing Rules and/or any decision of one of the bodies or institutions of the Association shall be brought before the competent courts of Brussels (Belgium).

## **Article 63 – Interpretation**

- 63.1. Terms in the present Statutes referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders and numbers.

## **Article 64 – Legal Residence**

64.1 In case the country of the Legal residence of a natural person cannot be determined according to Enclosure A of these Statutes and article 2.1 of the Standing Orders, the following criteria are taken into consideration in a descending order of priority :

- a) the country of the Legal residence is the country where a natural person spends most of his time;
- b) the country of the Legal residence is the country where a natural person has his centre of relationships;
- c) the country of the Legal residence is the country for which a natural person is considered to be resident for tax purposes.

## **Article 65 - Enclosures**

- 65.1. The Enclosure A to the present Statutes is incorporated to and fully part of the latter.

## ENCLOSURE A TO THE STATUTES OF THE FCI: Glossary

- **"2/3 Majority"** is reached if a proposal has the support of two thirds (2/3) of the votes.
- **"Absolute majority"** is reached when a proposal obtains fifty (50) % + one (1) of the votes.
- **"Bodies"** means the General Assembly, the General Committee, the Executive Committee, the President and the Executive Director.
- **"Breed Standard"** means the detailed description of an ideal specimen of a specific breed.
- **"Head Office"** means the registered office of the Association and the staff in charge of the administrative tasks and day-to-day operation of the FCI and supporting and implementing General Assembly, General Committee and Executive Committee decisions under the authority of the Executive Director.
- **"Legal residence"** means the place where a natural person lives permanently or has his principal establishment as defined by the applicable national laws of the relevant Member or Partner country.
- **"Liaison Agent"** General Committee member in charge of communication and relations with a non-mandatory Commission.
- **"National Canine Organisation"** means an all-breed National Canine Organisation recognised by the FCI.
- **"Section"** means a geographical sub-division of the FCI set up according to its own organisation and/or governing rules subject to and in compliance with the FCI Governing Rules.
- **"Simple majority"** is reached when a proposal is adopted with the highest number of votes.

<p><b><u>Example 1:</u></b>            In favor: 14            Against: 12            Abstentions: 9            The proposal is adopted with a simple majority.</p>	<p><b><u>Example 2:</u></b>            In favor: 9            Against: 8            Abstentions: 12            The proposal is adopted with a simple majority.</p>	<p><b><u>Example 3:</u></b>            In favor: 9            Against: 12            Abstentions: 14            The proposal is rejected.</p>
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**These new Statutes were approved by the Extraordinary General Assembly in Brussels, August 2018.**



Rafael de Santiago  
FCI President



Y. De Clercq  
FCI Executive Director