

**EUROPEAN HOCKEY FEDERATION**

**STATUTES**

**OCTOBER 2003**

# **STATUTES**

## **1. NAME**

(i) The Federation shall be called the EUROPEAN HOCKEY FEDERATION, hereinafter referred to as the 'E.H.F.'

## **2. OFFICIAL SEAT**

(i) The official seat of the E.H.F. shall be as determined by the Executive Board.

## **3. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE F.I.H.**

(i) The E.H.F. exists within the framework of the International Hockey Federation (F.I.H.) and under its authority. It agrees to conform to the Statutes and the Bye-Laws of the F.I.H. and also to obtain the latter's prior agreement before undertaking any fundamental initiative or change in its operations.

(ii) These Statutes have been approved by the F.I.H., and any additions, deletions or amendments thereto shall, before being voted on at a General Assembly of the E.H.F., receive the prior approval of the F.I.H.

## **4. OBJECTS**

(i) The objects of the E.H.F. shall be to support the F.I.H. in controlling, promoting, defending and developing hockey at all levels throughout the continent of Europe. In all cases, 'hockey' shall also include 'indoor hockey'.

(ii) The E.H.F. and its member National Associations and their affiliated clubs shall support and maintain the ideals and objects of the Olympic movement, and in particular the fight against doping.

(iii) These objects shall involve the reinforcement of contacts and friendly relationships between the National Associations governing hockey in Europe, and shall include the organisation of competitions, championships and cups for the good of European hockey, whether involving countries or clubs.

(iv) To these ends, the E.H.F. shall take such administrative, financial and other actions as are necessary and in conformity with and in furtherance of its objects.

## **5. COMPOSITION - MEMBERSHIP**

(i) The E.H.F. is composed of the National Associations of European countries that govern hockey in their countries (hereinafter referred to as National Associations). The present member National Associations are listed in Appendix A to these Statutes. Other European National Associations, which are or become members of the F.I.H. and which comply with this criterion shall apply for membership, which shall, if all conditions are fulfilled, be granted provisionally by the Executive Board of the E.H.F. At the first General

Assembly to be held following the grant of provisional membership, a motion shall be proposed to confirm the membership.

(ii) Where a body in a European country is or becomes an Adherent Member of the F.I.H., it shall also apply to become an Adherent Member of the E.H.F., and this shall be granted provisionally by the Executive Board of the E.H.F. on such terms and subject to such conditions as the latter shall lay down in each case. In no circumstances shall an Adherent Member have any voting rights, nor shall Adherent Members be included in the 'majority', 'simple majority' or 'special majority' referred to in Articles 5 (iv), 7 (viii) and (xi) and 10 (i). At the first General Assembly to be held following the grant of provisional Adherent membership, a motion shall be proposed to confirm this.

(iii) Any member may withdraw from the E.H.F. at the end of any calendar year provided that it has given at least six months notice in writing to the E.H.F. of such intent and has fulfilled all its financial obligations to the E.H.F.

(iv) The Executive Board may at any time suspend a member of the E.H.F. for any conduct inconsistent with its responsibilities as a member of the E.H.F., by resolution of at which at least six weeks notice has been given to the Board's Officers and ordinary members, and by special majority decision (at least three quarters of those present). This is subject to the subsequent ratification of such suspension by member National Associations voting at the next General Assembly of the E.H.F., by special majority (at least three-quarters of those members present and entitled to vote and who have cast a valid vote). Such suspension shall also be subject to the right of appeal by the National Association concerned to the F.I.H., made within two months of the E.H.F.'s General Assembly, which ratified the suspension. Where a member National Association has been suspended, or after ceasing to be a member for any reason, that National Association (or its replacement, where there has been any change) shall, before being admitted or re-admitted, fulfil all its (or a previous National Association's) financial obligations to the E.H.F., that have accumulated before or during such suspension or cessation

(v) The Executive Board may impose such penalties (including penalties of a financial nature) as it shall deem fit for failure to observe the Statutes or for conduct prejudicial to the interest of the game of hockey or to one or more of the E.H.F.'s member National Associations or to one of its clubs, whether caused by a member National Association or by a club or player belonging to that member National Association.

(vi) Should the Executive Board impose a penalty, any aggrieved party may, within one month of receiving the notification thereof, demand a review by an arbitration panel, by fax or registered letter to the Hon. General Secretary of the E.H.F. Such a panel shall consist of one member nominated by the aggrieved party, one by the E.H.F. Executive Board and one who shall preside, nominated jointly. In the case of failure so to do, the Hon. Secretary General of the FIH shall appoint the third member. The decision of the panel shall be final. The assembly and incidental costs of the panel shall be met by the aggrieved party if the panel so decides.

(vii) The E.H.F. is empowered to recognise suspensions or disqualification's of clubs or players imposed by the member National Association to which they belong and, in such cases, to require that these decisions be applied also by other member National Associations.

## **6. FINANCE**

(i) Member National Associations shall pay such annual subscriptions and fees to the E.H.F. as shall from time to time be determined by the Executive Board and, in the case of annual subscriptions, confirmed by a General Assembly of the E.H.F. Annual subscriptions shall be due on 1st January and must be paid before 31st March of the year in question. Although the subscriptions and fees are normally payable in Euro, the Executive Board shall have the power to decide that they be paid in another currency.

(ii) Fees for participation in international matches between European countries or in tournaments, cups or competitions involving only European countries or clubs shall be fixed by the Executive Board of the E.H.F. in consultation with the F.I.H.

(iii) The E.H.F. may impose financial penalties as permitted in Article 5 (v) above, and may, by decision of the Executive Board, retain the amounts received for the benefit of the E.H.F. or donate them, either in full or in part, to any member National Association(s) or club(s) that has suffered or is likely to suffer financial loss as a result of the default of the other member National Association or club.

(iv) The E.H.F. may furthermore receive donations and may raise funds to be used for the benefit of European hockey in any way that it thinks fit. It may claim payment of rights for organisation, participation, umpiring, coaching, supervision etc.

(v) The assets and funds of the E.H.F. shall be administered by the Honorary Treasurer of the E.H.F. under the control of the Executive Board. Each financial period shall cover two calendar years terminating on the 31st December prior to the holding of each Ordinary General Assembly. The Honorary Treasurer shall draw up accounts for each financial period, and these shall be audited by Honorary Auditors (see Article 9 below).

## **7. GENERAL ASSEMBLIES**

(i) The member National Associations shall meet in Ordinary General Assembly every two years or in Extraordinary General Assembly whenever the Executive Board of the E.H.F. shall decide or when requisitioned by at least one-third of the member National Associations.

(ii) An Ordinary General Assembly shall be convened by the Honorary General Secretary at least three months before the appointed date. In the case of an Extraordinary General Assembly, the Honorary General Secretary shall send out convening notices including the business to be transacted thereat within one month of receiving the requisition, and it shall be held within two months of the date of dispatch of the notices.

(iii) The business of each Ordinary General Assembly shall be set out in the agenda sent to member National Associations by the Honorary General Secretary and shall include the consideration of the Honorary General Secretary's Report on the previous two years, the consideration of the Honorary Treasurer's Financial Report and the audited Accounts of the E.H.F. for the previous two calendar years together with the Honorary Auditors' Report thereon, the consideration of applications for membership or suspensions, proposals for alterations to these Statutes, election of Officers as well as ordinary members of the Executive Board and the Honorary Auditor (see Articles 8 and 9 below), appointment of European Members of Honour, determination of annual subscriptions and any other items of which proper notice has been given.

(iv) Candidatures for Officers or members of the Executive Board of the E.H.F. shall be sent to the Honorary General Secretary by registered mail or facsimile transmission at least two months before an Ordinary General Assembly, and details of those standing for re-election and new candidatures shall be notified by the Honorary General Secretary to the member National Associations at least one month before the meeting. A candidate for election or re-election (as the case may be) as an Officer or an ordinary member of the Executive Board of the E.H.F. must be nominated or re-nominated (as the case may be) by his or her country's member National Association and must be a citizen of that country. By making the nomination or re-nomination, that member National Association shall thereby be deemed to give to the E.H.F. an undertaking to financially support such person or persons, so that they can attend meetings of the Executive Board

(v) Each member National Association may be represented at General Assemblies by one or two delegates, one of whom shall be the head of the delegation. The head of the delegation must be a citizen of the country of the National Association that he or she represents. Each delegate shall have the right to speak either in English or in French.

(vi) Members of the Executive Board of the E.H.F. may attend General Assemblies in their own right without power of vote. as may European Members of Honour and others who are permitted by the President or, in his or her absence, the person presiding over the meeting.

(vii) Each member National Association shall be entitled to one vote.

(viii) Except where specifically stated in these Statutes, where, at a General Assembly, a majority is required, voting shall be by simple majority, a majority of the eligible votes. However, these Statutes may only be amended, added to or rescinded by a resolution of the General Assembly passed by a special majority of at least three quarters of those present and entitled to vote and who have cast a valid vote. No such resolution shall be submitted to a General Assembly unless prior notice of its proposal, in accordance with this Article, has been given to all member National Associations.

(ix) Elections for the President, Vice-Presidents, Honorary General Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and the other members of the Executive Board of the E.H.F. (see Article 8 below) shall be taken in this order and shall be by ballot.

(x) Where the number of candidates (new and/or standing for re-election) for any position or positions does not exceed the number of vacancies, then the candidate or candidates shall be declared elected, without any formal vote.

(xi) Where the number of candidates for any position or positions exceeds the number of vacancies, then there shall be a ballot, and the candidate(s) receiving the most votes shall be declared elected, notwithstanding that a simple majority may not have been obtained.

(xii) If two or more candidates for the last available vacancy or vacancies receive an equal number of votes, then, where there are more candidates than vacancies, there shall be a re-ballot between those candidates only. In the event of there again being an equality of votes, then there shall be a further ballot.

(xiii) When electing the other members of the Executive Board of the E.H.F. (see above), where it is necessary to elect one or two male members or one or two female members, in order to satisfy Article 8 (iii) below, there shall first be a ballot amongst the male or female candidates (as the case may be) in order to satisfy the condition imposed by Article 8 (iii). In such a case, the required number of male members or female members shall be elected by a ballot, with the vacancy or vacancies being filled by the person or persons receiving the most votes. Any candidates who have not been elected in this first ballot may stand again in the subsequent ballot involving both male and female candidates for the remaining positions on the Executive Board of the E.H.F. when the vacancy or vacancies shall be filled by the person or persons receiving the most votes.

## **8. OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD**

(i) There shall be an Executive Board of the E.H.F., which shall be elected by the General Assembly and shall be responsible for the current administrative activities of the E.H.F. The Executive Board shall consist of the Officers of the E.H.F. together with the ordinary members.

(ii) The Officers of the E.H.F. shall be the President, two Vice-Presidents (one male and one female), Honorary General Secretary and Honorary Treasurer.

(iii) In addition to the Officers, there shall be seven ordinary members of the Executive Board. At least two of the ordinary members shall be male and at least two female.

(iv) The Officers of the E.H.F. shall be elected by the General Assembly and shall hold office until the Ordinary General Assembly to be held in the fourth following year and, on the expiration of any of their terms, they shall be eligible for re-election (see Article 7 (iv) regarding nomination and citizenship). Notwithstanding, if the Honorary General Secretary is elected at the same General Assembly as that at which the President is elected, the former shall then hold office until the conclusion of the Ordinary General Assembly to be held in the second following year, when he or she shall be eligible for re-election.

(v) Ordinary members of the Executive Board shall be elected at each Ordinary General Assembly, and shall hold office until the Ordinary General Assembly to be held in the fourth following year. They shall be eligible for re-election (see Article 7 (iv) regarding nomination and citizenship)

(vi) In the event of the death, resignation or inability to continue in office of one of the Officers or of an ordinary member of the Executive Board during his or her term, the Executive Board shall have the power to replace the Officer or ordinary member, (following nomination by the replacement's country's member National Association) but the replacement shall seek confirmation by standing for election at the next Ordinary General Assembly (see Article 7 (iv) regarding nomination and citizenship) and, if elected and replacing an Officer or ordinary member whose term of office would have expired two years later, he or she shall hold office until the Ordinary General Assembly to be held in the second following year and shall then be eligible for re-election for a normal four-year term.

(vii) All Officers and ordinary members of the Executive Board shall hold office in their personal capacities and not as representatives of their National Associations or any other organisation.

(viii) The Executive Board shall create such Committees, Sub-Committees and Commissions as it shall deem necessary, and shall appoint the members thereof having considered any nominations from member National Associations. Prior to appointment or re-appointment, he or she shall first be supported by his or her member National Association which, by giving this support, shall be deemed thereby give to the E.H.F. an undertaking to financially support its representatives, so that they can attend meetings of the particular Committee, Sub-Committee or Commission. The Committee members shall normally hold office until the first meeting of the Executive Board following the next Ordinary General Assembly, when they shall be eligible for re-appointment. The Executive Board may similarly dissolve any Committee, Sub-Committee or Commission and may remove any member. These Committees, Sub-Committees and Commissions shall be responsible to the Executive Board.

(ix) The Executive Board shall meet on such occasions as the President and/or the Honorary General Secretary may consider necessary.

(x) The President, when present, shall preside at all meetings. In his or her absence, the meeting shall be presided over by one of the Vice-Presidents or by the Honorary General Secretary.

(xi) The Executive Board may nominate 'European Members of Honour' and may confer any other awards and distinctions that it shall consider appropriate, to pay tribute to those who have given outstanding service and/or who have contributed substantially to the game of hockey and its development in Europe.

(xii) The Honorary General Secretary shall be responsible to the Executive Board, and shall handle the day-to-day administration of the E.H.F. and its relationship with the F.I.H.

(xiii) All official correspondence with the E.H.F. shall be in either English or French.

## **9. HONORARY AUDITORS**

(i) At each Ordinary General Assembly one of the member National Associations shall be appointed to be responsible for the audit of the accounts of the E.H.F. for the ensuing two years, and it shall produce a

Report thereon. The same member National Association shall not be appointed twice in succession.

(ii) The Auditor's Report shall be presented to the member National Associations at the next Ordinary General Assembly.

## **10. MODIFICATION OF STATUTES**

(i) The Statutes may be amended, added to or rescinded by a resolution of a General Assembly passed by special majority (see Article 7 (viii)), following a proposal by the Executive Board or by a member National Association and after the agreement of the F.I.H. has been received. No such resolution shall be submitted to the General Assembly unless the prior notice prescribed by Article 7 has been given to all member National Associations.

## **11. DISSOLUTION OF THE E.H.F.**

(i) The E.H.F. shall not be dissolved except at an Extraordinary General Assembly convened for the purpose and by a resolution supported by three fourths of the votes validly cast.

(ii) On such a dissolution, the remaining assets shall be administered as shall be determined by the F.I.H. and retained for the benefit of a future European Federation or for the benefit of European hockey generally.

## **12. INTERPRETATION**

(i) These Statutes shall exist in both the English and French languages. In the event of any differences in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

**October 2003.**

## **Appendix A to the Statutes of the European Hockey Federation**

### **National Associations in membership as at 1<sup>st</sup> October 2003.**

1. Armenia	ARM
2. Austria	AUT
3. Azerbaijan	AZE
4. Belgium	BEL
5. Belarus	BLR
6. Bulgaria	BUL
7. Croatia	CRO
8. Cyprus	CYP
9. Czech Republic	CZE
10. Denmark	DEN
11. England	ENG
12. Finland	FIN
13. France	FRA
14. Georgia	GEO
15. Germany	GER
16. Gibraltar	GIB
17. Greece	GRE
18. Hungary	HUN
19. Ireland	IRL
20. Israel	ISR
21. Italy	ITA
22. Lithuania	LTU
23. Luxembourg	LUX
24. Malta	MAL
25. Moldova	MDA
26. Netherlands	NED
27. Norway	NOR
28. Poland	POL
29. Portugal	POR
30. Romania	ROM
31. Russia	RUS
32. Scotland	SCO
33. Serbia & Montenegro	SCG
34. Slovakia	SVK
35. Slovenia	SLO
36. Spain	ESP
37. Sweden	SWE
38. Switzerland	SUI
39. Turkey	TUR
40. Ukraine	UKR
41. Wales	WAL

### **Adherent Members:**

Great Britain	GBR
Latvia	LAT