



STATUTES

OF THE EUROPEAN CANOE ASSOCIATION

**Amended by the 10th ECA Congress
On 26 March 2011 in Porto**



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FOREWORD

This Association was born to pursue the promotion of canoeing activity throughout Europe, following the ideals and actions of the INTERNATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION. As regards whatever issue not specifically covered in the present Statutes and in case of controversy of interpretation, the ICF Rules will apply.

At the ICF Acapulco Congress in 1994, the ECA was recognised by ICF in accordance with the ICF Resolution C.19.94.

1 - DEFINITION

1.1

The name of the Association is "EUROPEAN CANOE ASSOCIATION" (abbreviation: ECA)

1.2

The official flag and emblem of the Association will be decided upon by the Congress and protected by copyright.

1.3

The official languages of ECA are ENGLISH, FRENCH and GERMAN. In case of interpretation, the English language prevails.

1.4

The Association normally has its headquarters care of the headquarters of the Secretary General's National Federation.

2 - AIMS

2.1

The aim of the Association is the spreading of canoe sport throughout Europe, supporting closer co-operation among the European National Canoe Federations; in particular:

- To co-ordinate the European Calendar of Events and to establish European Championships in all canoeing disciplines;
- To promote technical exchanges among the Member Federations including the organisation of International Seminars for coaches;

- To create a computerised data bank network among Member Federations for the mutual exchange of information regarding common issues;
- To co-ordinate the actions of mass-media and sponsor;
- To promote canoe touring and help to protect the nature and environment;
- To maintain existing levels of access to rivers, lakes and waterways etc. and wherever possible to increase access to the above;
- To influence from the canoeing standpoint any alterations to rivers, lakes and waterways e.g. weir constructions dams etc.;
- To influence the setting of standards for safety in the sport of canoeing;
- To seek connections with European Continental authorities such as the European Union and the European Parliament in order to influence laws and legislation appertaining to the sport of canoeing;
- To join or associate with European and international bodies that work in the field of water sport e.g. PNJC (Pleasure Navigation Joint Committee) and AIT (Alliance International de Tourisme).

2.2

The ECA pursues its goals with no discrimination on political, religious or racial grounds.

3 - MEMBERSHIP

3.1

All National Canoe Federations in Europe duly recognised by and affiliated to the I.C.F. that forward specific request will become Members of ECA.

National Federations whose National Olympic Committees are duly recognised by A.C.N.O.E. and affiliated to the I.C.F. may become members of the ECA.

3.2

Member Federations shall co-operate to achieve the goals of the Association and, at the same time, they benefit from all rights deriving from the present Statutes.

3.3.

Members of the ECA shall pay an annual membership fee. The Congress shall fix the annual membership fee payable to the ECA for the period between two ordinary meetings of the Congress.

The annual subscription fee is to be paid to the Secretary General of the ECA In order to retain memberships in the ECA a National Federation shall, during the first quarter of each year and received not later than the 31st March by the Secretary General, pay the annual membership fee.

National Federations whose membership fees are unpaid shall not be eligible to attend the Congress and to take part in the European Championships and in any other European International Event until all outstanding fees have been paid.

A national federation, which has not paid by the date, the stipulated membership fee due for the current year shall have to pay a supplementary charge of 25% of the outstanding amount.

4 - STRUCTURE

4.1

The official organs of ECA are:

- The Congress**
- The President**
- The Executive Committee**
- The Board of Directors**
- The Secretary General**
- The Auditor**

5 - THE CONGRESS

5.1.

The Congress is the supreme authority of ECA and is made by the Delegates appointed by each Member Federation.

All elective organs participate by right in the Congress. The I.C.F. President or his delegate may attend the Congress without the right of vote.

All powers not specifically attributed to other positions by the present Statutes belong to the Congress.

5.2

It is incumbent upon the Congress:

- To approve the biannual reports;**
- To approve the annual accounts (balance sheet and financial outcome) for the 2 year period between two Congresses - after hearing the Auditor's opinion;**
- To establish the amount of the affiliation fee;**
- To elect for a 4-year term the Board of Directors: the President, two Vice Presidents, the Secretary General, 5 Members of the Board.**

The President, One of the Vice-Presidents and Three Members of the Board are elected at one Congress, and the Other Vice-

President, the Secretary General and Two Members of the Board at the next Congress.

- Only one person from a National Federation may be a member of the Board of Directors;**
- To elect the Auditor until the next Congress;**
- To adopt the programme of activity for the two-year term;**
- To make amendments to the Statutes when necessary;**

- To debate the position of the European Continent towards issues set forth by the International Canoe Federation, although each National Federation maintains its individuality and freedom of vote at international level;**
- To establish the European Championships Calendar**

5.3

The Congress takes place every two years, but it elects positions according to paragraph 5.2.

The delegates appointed by the valid Member Federations form the Congress and the Board members have the right to participate. Each Member Federation may participate in the Congress with a maximum of 3 Delegates, only one of which has voting right. Each Member Federation present is entitled one vote. A Congress may deliberate if at least half of the valid Members plus one are accredited before the beginning of the meeting.

5.4

All Congresses shall be held under the Chairmanship of the President of the ECA, or in the absence of the President, one of the Vice Presidents. The President and the other Board Members do not have voting right. Unless they act as Delegates with voting right.

5.5

The election of Board Members takes place by secret ballot while all other voting will be performed by show of hands, unless 1/3 of voting members require differently. The resolutions of the Congress are final and may only be altered by the Congress itself. Amendments to the present Statutes require a 2/3 majority; Rules and Regulations will be adopted by simply majority. The ECA Constitution, the general principles, rules and policy and any changes to them, must conform to those of the I.C.F and be approved by the I.C.F. Executive Committee.

5.6

Extraordinary meeting of the Congress shall be called against written request to the Board of Directors of the simple majority of member Federations.

The Board of Directors shall examine motions for amendments to the Statutes. Motions for amendments to the Statutes shall be submitted at least 12 weeks before the opening day of the Congress. In any case motions do not have to be submitted before January 1st of the year of the Congress. 45 days before the Congress, the Secretary General shall notify such motions to all Member federations and Board Members.

5.7

The Secretary General - 45 days before the Congress - shall forward to all Member Federations and Board Members the following items:

- date, venue and agenda of the Congress;**
- Report from the Board of Directors, together with the balance sheet and financial outcome, assets situation and Auditor's report;**
- motions and proposals;**
- List of accepted candidatures.**

6 - ELECTIONS

6.1

Elections of members to all positions within ECA shall take place by secret ballot. In case two candidates obtain equal number of votes the ballot shall be repeated between them.

6.2

The member Federations shall submit candidatures to the positions to the Secretary General. Only one person per Federation per Board position may be nominated. Nominations for the positions shall be submitted at least 12 weeks before the opening day of the Congress. In any case motions do not have to be submitted before January 1st of the year of the Congress and shall be notified according to paragraph 5.6.

In case there is no candidature for a position, the same will be accepted at the opening of the meeting. The candidature must be submitted in writing officially by the Federation concerned and should include a profile of the candidate.

6.3

All Board Members shall be elected for a 4-year term, and re-election of former members is allowed.

6.4

Candidatures shall be presented through the National Federation of origin and must be signed by the President or Secretary General of that Federation.

6.5

Once the Board members have been elected to the ECA Board then the Congress will elect members of the new Board for vacant positions to the ICF Board of Directors.

6.6

Members of the Board must be proposed officially by their Federations (12 weeks prior to the Congress) to be considered for ICF positions. Board members who are not supported officially by their Federations cannot be considered for election to the ICF Board of Directors.

6.7. ELECTION PROCEDURE FOR ECA REPRESENTATIVES TO THE ICF BOARD

6.7.1

4 persons can be elected as ECA representatives to the ICF Board.

6.7.2.

All 4 persons must be existing or newly elected members of the ECA Board of Directors.

6.7.3.

For existing members of the ECA Board of Directors who are interested in becoming ECA representative in the ICF Board, their Federation must send the letter in which the Federation agrees with the candidate's nomination for the ICF Board.

6.7.4.

In new applications of candidates for the ECA Board it must be emphasised that the Federation agrees with the candidate's nomination for the ICF Board.

6.7.5.

The President is automatically elected among four ECA representatives to the ICF Board and his mandate is for 4 years; Congress votes on all other candidates - the mandate of the candidate with the most votes is for 4 years, the mandate of the other candidate (by number of votes) is for 2 years. In any case the

mandate of the elected person may not be longer than his/her existing term on the ECA Board.

7 - THE PRESIDENT

7.1

The President represents ECA with all legal rights and duties.

7.2

It is incumbent upon him:

- To preside over the meetings of the Congress, the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee;
- To sign the minutes, accounting documents and financial reports of ECA;
- To sign contracts with the approval of the Executive Committee.

7.3

When unable to fulfil his duties, the President is replaced by the older Vice-President.

7.4

The President represents the ECA on the ICF Board of Directors.

7.5

The President and the Secretary General arrange meetings of the ECA Federations prior to the ICF Congress.

8 - THE VICE- PRESIDENTS

8.1

The Vice -Presidents assist the President in his duties.

9 - THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

9.1

The Board of Directors is made of Members:

- The President,
- Two Vice Presidents,
- The Secretary General,
- 5 Members.

9.2

The Congress elects them for a 4-year term.

9.3

Meetings of the Board of Directors shall take place at least once a year. The I.C.F. President or his delegate may attend the meetings of the Board without the right of vote. The Executive Committee summons the Board meeting at least one month before the date of the meeting.

The Board decides by voting if at least 5 members are present: in case of equal distribution of votes, the President has the casting vote.

9.4

In case of vacancies in the Board, the first non-elected candidate at the Congress enters as substitute until the next Congress. If no candidate is available, the Board of Directors may co-opt a substitute.

9.5

The Board of Directors is responsible for:

- Managing the ECA and enforcing the decisions adopted by the Congress**
- The administration and running of ECA according to the guidelines set by the Congress,**
- The creation of ad-hoc Commissions for an easier running of ECA tasks**
- The appointment of Technical Delegates for each of the disciplines**
- The setting up of impartial Commissions for Doping/Discipline etc**
- The employment of part or full time Staff as may be necessary**
- Deciding the date and venue of the Congress.**

10 - THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

10.1

The President, the two Vice Presidents and the Secretary General form the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee meets when deemed necessary by the President or at least two Committee Members - in order to fulfil the duties specifically attributed to it by the present Statutes. It is summoned at least one month before the date of the meeting and it can undertake actions when at least three members are present.

10.2

It is incumbent upon the Executive Committee:

- To conduct the work of ECA and to implement the decisions between Board meetings if requested to do so by the President;**
- To foster the work of the ad-hoc Commissions;**

- To keep in contact with the international sports organisations for the co-ordination of ECA activities at international level;
- To adopt internal rules;
- To award badges of merit

11 - SECRETARY GENERAL

11.1

The Secretary General is responsible for the headquarters of ECA and supervises the current day-to-day management of the Association.

11.2

It is incumbent upon the Secretary General:

- To establish, in conjunction with the President, the agenda of the Congress, the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee;
- To take the minutes of the official meetings of the Congress, Board of Directors and Executive Committee to be submitted to the President and distributed for approval by the competent organs;
- To update the ECA Webb site for all Member Federations containing reports of the activity of the Association:
- To supervise accreditation of delegates to the Congress;
- To exchange correspondence on issues falling within ECA competence;
- To represent, together with the President, the European Canoe Association vis-à-vis international organisations;
- To sign, together with the President, the financial accounts of ECA
- To prepare the annual accounts (balance sheet and financial outcome).

12 - CHAMPIONSHIPS

12.1

All European Championships must be conducted under the guidance of the Board of Directors in full compliance with the I.C.F. Statutes and technical rules. The European International Events must be conducted under the guidance of the ECA Board.

12.2

The ECA is the exclusive owner of the TV and advertising rights of European Championships.

12.3

Applications from the Federations to organise European Championships must be submitted to the Secretary General who

will, after consultation with the appropriate Technical Delegate, submit them to the next Board meeting for their decision.

The bidding process schedule is:

- 1st October of each year: ECA informs all National Federations of events which will be allocated at the 1st Board meeting of following year.
- 1st January: deadline to declare the interest of bid by National Federations.
- 15th January: ECA publishes a list of interested National Federations for each event.
- 1st March: deadline to submit bid documents and technical visit by ECA Technical Delegate.

At 1st Board meeting of each year: prior the Board's decision, each National Federation may present and support its application by a 10 minutes presentation in front of the Board.

12.4

In the two Olympic Disciplines for the Senior Championships the Federations that are awarded the Championships by the ECA Board must sign the contract for the running of the event including TV requirements within 90 days of the Board's decision.

12.5

In the European Championships, the ECA have the authority to suspend competitors or officials for the competition only. In more serious cases after a meeting of the Board, the ECA may recommend to the ICF further disciplinary actions against them. ECA must report on these facts to the I.C.F., which in turn may extend these disciplinary measures to a worldwide level. ECA may not suspend National Federations but may propose such measures to the I.C.F.

12.6

The ECA may have different Competition Rules, subject to the agreement of the ICF Executive Committee in consultation with the Chairman of the appropriate ICF Standing Committee. (See ICF Statutes).

