

FÉDÉRATION  
COLOMBOPHILE  
INTERNATIONALE  
(FCI)

Statutes

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## **Section I. Preamble**

Pigeons have been a friend of man since time immemorial. Pigeons were used to transmit messages even in ancient times. This development saw its peak during the armed conflicts of the twentieth century.

Pigeons' orientation capability and efficiency was recognised by Belgian trainers and strengthened through targeted breedings. With this, the foundation for the modern racing pigeon was established in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The racing pigeon is closely tied with man's cultural development and as such is a major cultural icon.

The protection and preservation of the racing pigeon as a cultural icon, is the task of all racing pigeons fanciers worldwide. To this end, racing pigeons fanciers have, peacefully and in free self-determination, united as the International Pigeon Fanciers Federation (FCI). In these statutes they document their will to fulfil the task of preserving and promoting the cultural icon that is the racing pigeon.

## **Section II. Definitions**

The following terms shall mean:

1. FCI: International Pigeon Fanciers Federation
2. Racing pigeon: A pigeon which is not intended for consumption in the commercial food chain, and which is marked with a special foot ring in line with FCI specifications, and, thanks to its orientation ability, allows its owner to participate in flight competitions and exhibitions.
3. Pigeon sport: Breeding and keeping of pigeons for sport reasons including participation in flight competitions and exhibitions.
4. Federation: A federation recognised as such by the national authority of that country.
5. State: An independent State recognised by the international community.
6. Confederation: An association of federations recognised by the FCI which belong to one or more continents or a comparable region.
7. Congress: The ultimate legislative body of the FCI.
8. Director Committee: The executive body of the FCI.
9. Emergency Committee: Committee of the Director Committee for the accomplishment of ad hoc urgent matters.
10. General Secretariat: Administrative body of the FCI.
11. Commission: Organisational unit of the FCI with special tasks.
12. Legal body: Committee of the FCI for the enforcement of disciplinary measures.
13. Member: A national federation which has been approved by the Congress to join the FCI.
14. Association: Regional organisational unit within a federation.
15. Other Associations: National unions of fanciers set up for the purpose of practising pigeon sports, both in general and specialised types of competition.
16. Officials: All members of the Director Committee, Commission members, judges, Honorary Presidents, Honorary Vice Presidents and Honorary Members as well as the technical, veterinary and

administrative managers of the FCI, a confederation or a member.

17. International Judge: An active breeder licenced by the FCI who is authorised to judge at official pigeon sport events in accordance with the given standards.
18. Fancier: A pigeon breeder, who is a member of an association.
19. Olympiads: An international pigeon sport event organised by the FCI, in which all members and their pigeon fanciers can participate subject to the rules and conditions of the event.
20. Distance flight: Joint release of racing pigeons at a specific location where the speed that individual pigeons take to return to their home is determined in accordance with the regulations of the FCI.
21. World Championship: A pigeon competition organised by the FCI, in which all fanciers can participate subject to the rules and conditions of the event.
22. Flight competition: A competition organised by the FCI, a confederation or one or more members on the basis of distance flights and subject to the rules and conditions of the FCI.
23. Standard: A set of rules set out by the FCI for the assessment of the physical condition of racing pigeons in accordance with uniform features.
24. Doping: The administration of non-permitted substances to increase the performance of racing pigeons.

Clarification: Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

## **Section III. General Provisions**

### **Article 1**

#### **Name and headquarters**

1.

The FCI is an association as per the meaning of the *Belgian business register (Belgian commercial law)*, in which it is registered.??? **CLARIFICATION IS NEEDED HERE.**

2.

The headquarters of the FCI is located in Halle, Belgium. It may only be transferred to another location subject to an amendment in accordance to Article 26 of the statutes.

### **Article 2**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the FCI is as follows:

- a) To ensure the continuous improvement and development and of the pigeon racing sport and its spread worldwide, giving importance to the unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian features of the sport; specifically (and in particular) through the promotion of the sport of pigeon racing via youth and development programmes.
- b) To organise Olympiads and World Championships; as well as any other events that contribute to the development of pigeon racing;
- c) To establish rules and regulations for the sport of pigeon racing as well as ensuring their enforcement;
- d) To issue and publish material dedicated to the promotion of the sport of pigeon racing and to develop guidelines to establish uniform bands (foot rings) for pigeons as well as procure them and provide them to the members;
- e) To promote integrity, ethics and fair play and thereby prevent methods or corrupt practices such as doping or manipulation of competitors' results which could jeopardise the integrity of competitions, officials and/or fanciers or to abuse of the sport of pigeon racing in general;
- f) To represent the interests of the sport of pigeon racing vis-a-vis international institutions, authorities and associations outside the sport of pigeon racing, including organisations and individual persons.

### **Article 3**

#### **Non-discrimination and combating racism**

All forms of discrimination against a State, an individual person or groups of persons on grounds of race, skin colour, ethnicity, national or social origin, gender, language, religion, political or other opinions, wealth, birth status or other status, sexual orientation or any other reason is prohibited and subject to disciplinary measures or expulsion.

## **Article 4**

### **The promotion of friendly relationships**

#### **1.**

The FCI promotes friendly relationships:

- a) Between members, confederations, officials and fanciers. All persons and organisations involved in pigeon racing must comply with the statutes and regulations and the principles of fair play;
- b) In society, for humanitarian and charity purposes.

#### **2.**

The FCI shall provide the necessary institutional means to resolve any dispute that may arise between or among members, confederations, officials and fanciers.

## **Article 5**

### **Behaviour of bodies and officials**

In the execution of their activities, the bodies and officials must observe the statutes, regulations and decisions of the FCI and FCI institutions.

## **Article 6**

### **Compensation of officials**

#### **1.**

All officials of the FCI, with the exception of the General Secretary, work on a voluntary basis.

#### **2.**

The officials may be granted an allowance, subject to clause 6.3.

#### **3.**

The Congress shall approve a budget proposed by the Director Committee. This budget will be administered by the Director Committee to cover specific tasks and/or services.

## **Article 7**

### **Transfer of travel expenses**

#### **1.**

Officials and other persons who work for the FCI can have travel expenses reimbursed. The basis for the reimbursement of travel expenses is the Travel Expenses Regulations (Annex 6).

**2.**

If officials do not qualify to have travel expenses reimbursed by the FCI, then the respective federations to which the officials belong shall incur their travel expenses in accordance with the respective federation's rules and regulations.

## **Article 8**

### **Official languages**

**1.**

The official languages of the FCI are English, French and German.

English is the official language for minutes, correspondence and announcements.

**2.**

The members are responsible for translation into their home country's language.

**3.**

English, French and German, as well as the language of the respective country in which a Congress takes place, are the official languages of the Congress.

Translation into these languages shall be performed by qualified interpreters. The delegates can talk in their mother language if a qualified interpreter is available to translate into one of the official Congress languages.

**4.**

The statutes, the annexes to the statutes and the decisions and announcements of the FCI shall be drafted in the three official languages. In the event of any words-related differences, the English version is applicable.



## **Section IV. Membership**

### **Article 9**

#### **Admission, suspension and exclusion**

The Congress shall make decisions on the admission, suspension and exclusion of members.

### **Article 10**

#### **Admission**

**1.**

Each federation which is responsible for the organisation and monitoring of the sport of pigeon racing in all its forms in a given country, can become a member of the FCI. For this reason, it is recommended that all members of the FCI integrate all clubs, associations and all relevant stakeholders which practice and support the sport of pigeon racing in their own structure.

**2.**

There shall be only one federation recognised in each country.

**3.**

A federation which wants to become a member of the FCI, must submit a written application to the General Secretariat.

**4.**

The request can only be handled in the next Congress if it is submitted at least two months in advance. In the absence of an official recognition by the national country, the FCI will determine which federation will be accepted as a member.

**5.**

A request for membership must be accompanied by a valid statute of the federation. This must include the provisions under which the statutes regulations and decisions of the FCI, its bodies and institutions are operating.

**6.**

In its written application, an applying federation must include a comprehensive report on the pigeons-related activities of its clubs, associations and members, the number of pigeons kept and the organisation of competitions held.

**7.**

An applying federation must also include in its written application the statements of four members in support of the written application.

**8.**

Article 10 does not affect the status of the current members and is not retrospective.

## **Article 11**

### **Written application request and procedure**

#### **1.**

The General Secretariat shall announce the acceptance or rejection of the applicant during Congress. A federation requesting inclusion can defend its application during the Congress. It will have the right to present itself in this regard.

#### **2.**

The new member shall acquire its membership rights and obligations immediately on acceptance. Its delegates shall be eligible to vote.

## **Article 12**

### **Members' rights**

#### **1.**

The members have the following rights:

- a) Participation in the Congress;
- b) To present proposals on the points in the agenda of the Congress;
- c) To propose candidates for voting of the FCI President, the FCI Vice Presidents and the remaining officials standing for election;
- d) Participation in the Olympiads, World Championships, flight competitions and other activities organised by the FCI;
- e) Participation in the support and development programmes of the FCI;
- f) To exercise all other rights emanating from these statutes and other FCI regulations.

#### **2.**

The practice of these rights is subject to other provisions in these statutes and the applicable regulations.

## **Article 13**

### **Members' obligations**

#### **1.**

The members have the following obligations:

- a) compliance with the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of the bodies and institutions of the FCI at all times;
- b) Payment of the membership fee;
- c) Enforcement of the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of the bodies and institutions of the FCI towards clubs, other private associations and private fanciers;
- d) Convocation of their foremost, legislative body at regular intervals, but at least once a year;

- e) To ensure that the objectives of a member are not jeopardized by third parties;
- f) To fulfil all other obligations emanating from the statutes and other FCI regulations.

**2.**

Violation of the aforementioned obligations by any member shall lead to sanctions as per the statutes.

**3.**

Violation of Parag. 1, letter (e) can also lead to sanctions by the FCI in cases where the influence of a third party is no fault of the member.

**Article 14  
Suspension**

**1.**

The Congress is responsible for suspending a member. However, a member who seriously violates the member obligations can be suspended from the Director Committee with immediate effect. This suspension shall apply until the next Congress, as long as it is not revoked by the Director Committee in the interim period.

**2.**

A suspension must be confirmed during the next Congress, by a 75% majority of the present members who have voting authority. If it is not confirmed, the suspension shall be considered as null and void from the outset.

**3.**

When a member is suspended, it forfeits its member's rights. Other members may not maintain contact with suspended members as far as the sport of pigeon racing is concerned.

**Article 15  
Expulsion**

**1.**

The Congress may expel a member:

- a) If they fail to fulfil their financial obligations vis-a-vis the FCI, or;
- b) If they are guilty of serious violations of the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of the FCI bodies and institutions, or;
- c) If a member is no longer representative of the pigeon fanciers association in their country.

**2.**

An expulsion is subject to the presence of more than half of the members with voting rights. A motion for expulsion may be approved only with a 75% majority of the submitted valid votes. Abstentions shall not be counted.

## **Article 16**

### **Exit**

**1.**

Each member can exit the FCI prior to the end of a given calendar year. A declaration of exit must be received by the General Secretariat no later than six months prior to the end of the calendar year, and must be issued by registered mail.

**2.**

An exit shall become legally binding once the outgoing member has fulfilled its financial obligations towards the FCI and its members.

## **Article 17**

### **Independence of the members and their bodies**

**1.**

Each member must determine its needs independently and without the influence of third parties.

**2.**

The bodies of a member may only be determined via voting or via appointments within the federation. For this purpose, the statutes of the members must include a procedure which guarantees the committee full independence during the voting or appointment.

**3.**

The bodies of a member whose vote or appointment was not conducted in compliance with the regulation in Parag. 2, shall not be recognised by the FCI. This also applies if these bodies were elected or appointed only on an interim basis.

**4.**

Decisions made by bodies which were not elected or appointed as per the provisions of Parag. 2, shall not be recognised by the FCI.

## **Article 18**

### **Status of clubs and other associations**

**1.**

Clubs or other associations of clubs and fanciers which are affiliated with a member of the FCI, are subordinate to it, and must be recognised by it. The statutes of the member shall define the responsibilities, as well as the rights and obligations, of these clubs and other associations. The statutes and regulations of such clubs and other associations must be approved by the member.

**2.**

Each member shall ensure that the clubs and other associations affiliated with them are able to make all decisions in connection with their membership,

independent of external bodies. This shall apply regardless of the legal form elected for the clubs and other associations.

## **Section V. Honorary President, Honorary Vice President, Honorary Member**

### **Article 19**

#### **Honorary President, Honorary Vice President, Honorary Member**

**1.**

The Congress can confer the title of Honorary President, Honorary Vice President or Honorary Member to former members of the Director Committee who have made a special contribution to the sport of pigeon racing.

**2.**

Such proposals are to be made by the Director Committee.

**3.**

Those conferred the title of Honorary President, Honorary Vice President or Honorary Member can participate in the Congress. They can take the floor; however, they have no right of vote.

**4.**

Honorary Presidents and Honorary Vice Presidents are members of the Director Committee. They have the right to contribute but not to vote within the directorate.

**5.**

The President can entrust Honorary Presidents and Honorary Vice Presidents with representation duties.

## **Section VI. Confederations**

### **Article 20 Confederations**

**1.**

Members of the FCI within one or more continents or comparable regions can join together to form confederations.

**2.**

The Director Committee must be immediately informed of any association which results in a confederation. The established protocol, as well as the approved statutes, must be included in the notification.

**3.**

An association of members resulting in a confederation shall only become effective if the Congress agrees to this association during the next meeting with a simple majority.

**4.**

Each confederation has the following rights and obligations:

- a) To follow the statutes, regulations and decisions of the FCI as well as its bodies and institutions and to enforce their compliance;
- b) To work in close cooperation with the FCI in all areas pursuant to satisfaction of the purpose included in Article 2 and the organisation of Olympiads and international competitions;
- c) To organise private internal competitions in line with the specifications of the FCI;
- d) To ensure that it shall not lead to the formation of international associations or other similar groupings of groups or other associations without their consent and the consent of the FCI;
- e) To actively and constructively promote contact and cooperation with the FCI in consultative meetings in the interest of the sport of pigeon racing and to handle and resolve all problems related to the interests of the confederations as well as the FCI;
- f) To set up committees which maintain close cooperation with the corresponding Commissions of the FCI;
- g) Under special circumstances (and subject to the approval of the FCI), to allow a federation of another confederation (or groups / other associations which belong to this federation) to participate in a competition that it has organised;
- h) Subject to agreement with the FCI, to undertake all measures which appear necessary for the development of the sport of pigeon racing, such as development programmes, and the organisation of conferences and other promotional events;
- i) Together with the relevant governmental and political institutions, to strive for free practice of their sport of pigeon racing;

## **Section VII. Organisations**

### **Article 21 Bodies**

- 1.**  
The Congress is the foremost and legislative body.
- 2.**  
The Director Committee is the executive body.
- 3.**  
The General Secretariat is the administrative body.
- 4.**  
The permanent commissions, as well as the ad hoc ones, are advisory and support bodies. They advise and support the Director Committee in the completion of its tasks. Their main tasks are laid down in these statutes. They make their own binding decisions to the extent that these are allowed by these statutes. The assembly, operation and other tasks which complement the provisions of this statute are regulated in the Procedural Rules for Commissions and the Procedural Rules of the Audit Commission.

### **A. Congress**

#### **Article 22 Congress**

- 1.**  
A Congress may be a regular Congress or a special one.
- 2.**  
The regular Congress takes place every two years. The Director Committee shall determine the place and date. The members shall be informed of it, in writing, no later than three months in advance. Formal invitations shall be issued in writing, at least one month prior to the date of the Congress. All such invitations shall include the agenda, the President's report, the annual statements and the report of the Finance Commission.
- 3.**  
A special Congress can be convened by the Director Committee at any time.
- 4.**  
The Director Committee must convene an extraordinary Congress if this is demanded by 20% of the members in a written request. Such a request must specify the topics to be discussed. A special Congress must take place within three months after the receipt of the order.

**5.**

The members must be informed of the location, date and agenda at least one month prior to the date of the extraordinary Congress. The agenda of an extraordinary Congress cannot be amended.

### **Article 23**

#### **Right to Vote, Delegates, Observers**

**1.**

The members are entitled to vote in Congress.

**2.**

Each member shall be entitled to one vote in the Congress. Only present members shall have the right of vote. Each member shall be represented by up to two delegates. Representation by proxy or postal voting are not permitted.

**3.**

The delegates must belong to the federation which they represent and must have been appointed, in writing, by the appropriate body of this federation.

**4.**

Confederations can each send up to two delegates to the Congress. They shall have the right to speak, but no right to vote.

**5.**

Further representatives of the members and the confederation are allowed to join the Congress in an observing role. The conditions for this are regulated in the code of practice of the Congress.

**6.**

During their term of office, members of the Director Committee may not be appointed as delegates of their federation.

**7.**

The President shall lead the Congress in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Congress.

### **Article 24**

#### **Candidates for the office of the President, as well as those of the Vice President and the Presidents of the Commissions as well as the additional members of the Director Committee**

**1.**

Candidates for the office of the President of the FCI can only be nominated by the members. A candidacy for the office of the President of the FCI shall only be valid if it is supported by a total of at least five members. The members must send a candidacy for the Office of the President of the FCI, in writing, to the FCI General Secretariat no later than three months prior to the start of the Congress, including the supporting declarations of at least five members.



A candidate for the office of the President of the FCI must have been a member of the Director Committee or a Confederation President for at least three years in the last five years before they can be nominated as a candidate.

A candidate who stood for the role of President but who was not elected, will automatically be considered as a candidate for the role of Vice President.

**2.**

Candidates for the offices of FCI Vice President can only be nominated by the members. A candidacy for the office of an FCI Vice President shall only be valid if it is supported by at least five members. The members must send a candidacy for an Office of Vice President of the FCI, in writing, to the FCI General Secretariat no later than three months prior to the start of the Congress, including the supporting declarations of at least five members. A candidate for an office of Vice President must have been a member of the Director Committee, President or Vice President of a Confederation or of a member, for at least three years in the last five years before they can be nominated for candidacy. A candidate who stood for the role of Vice President but who was not elected, will automatically be considered as a candidate for the role of Commission member.

**3.**

A period of service in the role of President of the Audit Commission is considered as valid for the requirements of Article 24(1) and 24(2).

**4.**

The General Secretariat shall inform the members of the names of the proposed candidates no later than one month prior to the start of the Congress.

**5.**

The Director Committee can nominate candidates for the offices of Presidents of the Commissions as well as the additional members of the Director Committee. These offices can be offered to every representative of a member or a confederation. The nominations must be submitted to the General Secretariat, in writing, at least three months prior to the start of the Congress. The General Secretariat shall inform the members of the names of the nominated candidates and the intended functions no later than one month prior to the start of the Congress.

**6.**

All candidates must fulfill the independence and reputation criteria stipulated in the rules of procedure of the Congress.

## **Article 25**

### **Agenda for an Ordinary Congress**

**1.**

The General Secretary shall draft the agenda on the basis of the suggestions put forward by the Director Committee and the members. Suggestions from members for consideration by Congress must be submitted to the General Secretariat, in writing, no later than two months prior to the date of the Congress (with reasons provided).

## 2.

The agenda of the Congress must include the following points:

- a) Opening by the President;
- b) Statement of a convocation in accordance with the statutes and assembly of the Congress;
- c) Approval of the agenda;
- d) Appointment of three members to check the minutes;
- e) Appointment of the tellers;
- f) Admission of members (where necessary);
- g) Suspension or expulsion of a member (where necessary);
- h) Approval of the minutes of the previous Congress;
- i) Report of the Director Committee;
- j) Reports of the Commissions;
- k) Submission of the consolidated and revised balance sheet and financial statements, and annual accounts;
- l) Report of the Audit Commission;
- m) Approval of the annual accounts;
- n) Approval of the budget;
- o) Voting on the suggestions relating to the decree and amendments of the statutes and their appendices (where necessary);
- p) Discussion of valid, i.e. in accordance with paragraph 1, nominations of the members and the Director Committee (where necessary);
- q) Vote of the President or dismissal of the President and vote of the Vice President or dismissal of the Vice President and of the additional members of the Director Committee (where necessary);
- r) Vote of the Presidents of the Commissions or dismissal of the Presidents of the Commissions (where necessary);
- s) Vote of the President and the members of the Audit Commission or dismissal of the President and the members of the Audit Commission (where necessary).

## 3.

The agenda of an Ordinary Congress can be altered if 75% of the members at the Congress (with voting power) agree to an appropriate request in such a matter.

### **Article 26**

#### **Adoption and amendment of the statutes as well as the annexes to the statutes**

##### 1.

The Congress is responsible for the acceptance, rejection or amendment of the statutes as well as the annexes to the statutes.

##### 2.

Proposals for amendments to the statutes must be submitted by members or the Director Committee, in writing, to the General Secretariat, at least three months

prior to the start of the Congress, with reasons. They have to be supported by a further member or the confederation.

**3.**

A valid vote on the changes to the statutes requires the simple majority of the members with vote authorisation being present at the Congress.

**4.**

A proposal for adoption or amendment to the statutes shall be adopted if 75% of the valid votes are approved at the Congress.

**5.**

Proposals for adoption or amendment to the annexes of the statutes must be submitted by a member or by the Director Committee, in writing, to the General Secretariat, with reasons.

**6.**

The approval of a proposal for adoption or amendment of the annexes to the statutes requires the simple majority of the submitted valid votes.

## **Article 27**

### **Voting, other decisions, required majorities**

**1.**

Elections shall be confidential and executed by secret ballot.

**2.**

All other decisions shall – to the extent where a vote is necessary – be conducted by a show of hands or with the use of electronic counting means. If a majority cannot be determined through a show of hands, another count will be effected by roll call. The members shall be called to vote in alphabetical order. Members will be called to vote by surname in order of the English alphabet.

**3.**

The vote for the President requires two thirds of the submitted valid votes during the first ballot. In the second and subsequent votes if required, the absolute majority of the submitted valid votes shall determine the vote. If more than two candidates contest for the post of President, then, from the second and subsequent ballots, the one which earned the smallest number of votes shall be dismissed until a final candidate is elected by absolute majority of the votes of the members present.

**4.**

The selection of the Vice President, the Presidents of the Commissions and the remaining members of the Director Committee, will be filled by the candidates who with respect to the vacant positions obtain the most votes.

**5.**

The election of the Vice President, the Presidents of the Commissions and the remaining members of the Director Committee by the Congress can be performed

en bloc. If requested by at least five members, the relevant vote has to be carried out in individual ballots.

**6.**

Should the number of candidates running for office be lower than the number of positions available, an election must still take place. A candidate is only successful in the election if he or she obtains more than half of the submitted votes.

**7.**

Unless otherwise specified by the statutes, the absolute majority of the submitted valid votes shall apply for elections, ballots and other decisions.

**8.**

Further details are regulated in the rules of procedure of the Congress.

**Article 28**

**Minutes**

**1.**

The General Secretary is responsible for management of the minutes of the Congress.

**2.**

The minutes of the Congress shall be checked by the members assigned to it. The audit shall be completed within one month after the Congress.

**Article 29**

**Entry into force of the decisions**

Congress decisions shall enter into force immediately unless the Congress determined another date for the congress decisions to take effect.

**B. Director Committee**

**Article 30**

**Composition, Representation, Voting Right**

**1.**

The Director Committee includes fourteen members elected by the Congress. These are:

President,

Three Vice Presidents,

The Presidents of the permanent Commissions with the exception of the President of the Audit Commission, plus

Four additional members.

**2.**

The President is elected by the Congress. The term of the President is four years; starting after the end of the Congress in which the President is elected and ends at the end of the Congress in which the next election takes place. If, at the time of the Congress in which the next election should take place, the four-year term of the President has been exceeded, then he shall remain in office until the end of this Congress. A single re-election is possible.

**3.**

The term of office of the Vice Presidents, the Presidents of the Commissions and the additional members of the Director Committee is four years, and shall begin after the election by the Congress and end at the end of the Congress in which new elections should take place. If, at the time of the Congress in which new elections should take place, the four-year term has been exceeded, they shall remain in office up until the end of this Congress. They can be re-elected. If a member of the Director Committee resigns or for any reason is no longer a member, a by-election will be held to fill the post for the remaining period, but not exceeding the next ordinary Congress.

**4.**

The President, the Vice Presidents, the Presidents of the Commissions and the remaining members of the Director Committee, can only be removed by the FCI Congress prior to the expiry of their term of office, subject to the sanctions of the FCI Disciplinary Commission.

**5.**

If the President is no longer exercising his role in office or has been prevented from doing so, then he shall be represented by the longest serving Vice President – or, if multiple Vice Presidents are in office who have served for the same amount of time, by the oldest-living Vice President – up until the next Congress.

**6.**

Vice Presidents, Presidents of Commissions and additional members of the Director Committee who are no longer exercising their role in office, shall be represented within the Director Committee. Details are regulated by the Rules of Procedure of the Director Committee.

**7.**

During the poll every member of the directorate has one vote, paragraph 19 number 4 applies.

## **Article 31**

### **Powers of the Director Committee**

**1.**

The Director Committee shall decide in all cases which fall outside the competence and jurisdiction of the Congress or which, by law or statutes, are not subject to other bodies.

**2.**

The Director Committee shall convene at least twice per year.

**3.**

The Director Committee is convened by the President. If so requested by at least seven members of the Director Committee, the President must convene a meeting.

**4.**

The President shall draft the agenda. Each member of the Director Committee shall have the right to propose agenda items.

**5.**

Members and confederations can bring requests to discuss particular issues to the directorate. However, a right to have individual issues discussed only applies if the request is submitted to the general secretary at least one month prior to the meeting of the directorate.

**6.**

The Director Committee shall appoint and dismiss the General Secretary at the suggestion of the President. The General Secretary shall participate ex officio at all meetings of the Director Committee and the Commissions. The Emergency Committee can disallow participation in a meeting of the Director Committee or in a meeting of a Commission.

**7.**

The Director Committee shall determine the dates and venues for the activities of the FCI, where these have not been agreed by vote in Congress.

**8.**

The Director Committee shall, as long as nothing else is ordered by these statutes, approve the decisions of the Commissions. The decisions of the Commissions shall only become effective after their approval.

## **C. President**

### **Article 32 President**

**1.**

The President is the legal representative of the FCI.

**2.**

The President is the representative of the FCI in public. It shall represent the interests of the sport of pigeon racing vis-a-vis political institutions, associations, interest groups and other associations.

**3.**

The President is, in particular, responsible for:

- a) The implementation of the decisions of the Congress and the Director Committee via the General Secretariat;
- b) Monitoring the work of the General Secretariat;
- c) The relationships between the FCI and the members, confederations, political bodies and international organisations.

**4.**

The President has the right to propose the appointment or dismissal of the General Secretary.

**5.**

The President shall preside over the Congress and at all meetings of the Director Committee and the Emergency Committee.

**6.**

The President shall agree with the Director Committee. In the event of equal voting, his vote shall be the decisive one.

**7.**

If the President is unavailable or lacks the required capacity, the longest serving Vice President shall take over his tasks; if there are multiple Vice Presidents who have been in office for the same length of time, the role shall be taken over by the oldest living Vice President.

### **Article 33**

#### **Vice Presidents**

**1.**

The Vice Presidents shall support the President in the execution of his duties.

**2.**

The longest serving Vice President – or, if there are multiple Vice Presidents with equal length of service – the eldest living Vice President, is the legal representative of the FCI if the president is unable to carry out their duties long-term.

**3.**

Each Vice President may act in place of the President if he was specifically appointed by the President to act in his or her place on a particular matter.

- 4.**  
The Director Committee can transfer its own responsibilities to the Vice Presidents if in agreement with the President.
- 5.**  
The Vice Presidents represent each other.
- 6.**  
The President and the Vice Presidents must belong to different members.

#### **D. Emergency Committee**

##### **Article 34 Emergency Committee**

- 1.**  
The Emergency Committee shall handle all matters which require immediate attention and decision between two meetings of the Director Committee. The Committee shall consist of the President, the Vice Presidents and the President of the Commission statutes and legal matters.
- 2.**  
The meetings of the Emergency Committee shall be convened by the President. At the meetings, the Presidents of the Commissions that may be affected shall be consulted. Should a short-term convocation not be possible, decisions can be reached via other means of communication. The decisions shall become legally valid with immediate effect. The President shall immediately inform the Director Committee of the decisions made by the Emergency Committee.
- 3.**  
The decisions made by the Emergency Committee must be confirmed during the next meeting of the Director Committee. If this does not happen, they shall lose their validity with immediate effect.
- 4.**  
If the President cannot attend a meeting, he shall be represented by the longest serving Vice President or, in case there are multiple Vice Presidents with equal length of service, by the oldest living Vice President.
- 5.**  
If a member is impeded, or if there is the risk that a member is prejudiced as per the independence criteria of the Congress, the President can appoint a replacement from the Director Committee.



## **E. Permanent Commissions**

### **Article 35**

#### **Permanent Commissions**

**1.**

The permanent Commissions are as follows:

Finance Commission

Audit Commission

Commission for Statutes and Legal Matters

Sports Commission

Standards Commission

Veterinary and Science Commission

Doping Commission

**2.**

The Presidents of the permanent Commissions (selected by the Congress) are members of the Director Committee, with the exception of the President of the Audit Commission, who cannot be a member of the Director Committee (see also Article 30 Parag. 1).

**3.**

The Presidents of the Permanent Commissions are voted for a period of office lasting four years. A renewed vote is possible, as is a dismissal at any time. The Presidents of the Permanent Commissions, as well as the members of the Audit Commission, can only be dismissed by the Congress.

**4.**

The members of the permanent Commissions are nominated by the Director Committee on the recommendation of the members, the President or the Confederation for the period of two years. The members of the Audit Commission are voted by the Congress. Their period of office is two years. Only members have the right to nominate (vote for) the members of the Audit Commission.

**5.**

The President shall represent the Commission and run the activities with support from the General Secretariat, in accordance with the relevant procedural rules which are included in these statutes as attachments.

**6.**

Each Commission can appoint a Committee to complete its tasks if necessary, and appoint professional consultants.

**7.**

Each Commission can suggest changes to its duties and regulations, to the Director Committee. The Director Committee must submit these suggestions to the Congress, with a recommendation for a decision.

**8.**

The Director Committee can set up more Commissions in addition to the standing Commissions. It shall determine the scope of these other Commissions, taking into account the responsibilities of the standing Commissions. The Presidents of these additional Commissions are chosen between the four additional members of the Director Committee. The members of these Commissions are nominated by the Director Committee.

**9.**

The reports and minutes of the Commissions, except for the Audit Commission, must be approved by the Director Committee.

## **Article 36**

### **Finance Commission**

**1.**

The Commission shall monitor financial management and advise the Director Committee in financial issues and asset management.

**2.**

The Commission shall draft proposals for the formation of the financial contribution of the members and submit these to the Director Committee.

**3.**

The Commission is responsible for the allocation, exploitation and enforcement of any rights in accordance with the direction of the Director Committee.

**4.**

The Commission controls and monitors the entire revenue and expenditure of the FCI, in particular the purchase and sale of the identification rings, of competition equipment for the pigeon sport as well as merchandising material.

**5.**

The President of the Commission is also the treasurer of the FCI. He shall monitor all cash receipts and payments and has the right and responsibility to undertake corrective action in cases of recognisable irregularities. In this respect, he is authorised to issue directives to the General Secretary.

**6.**

The Finance Commission shall present a financial budget to the director Committee for each business period (art. 55 point 1). This financial budget has to be submitted to the directorate by the end of January (art. 31 point 8).

The Finance Commission shall also present a biannual budget to the Director Committee for onward presentation to the Congress.

**7.**

The Finance Commission shall present at the respective year end an annual report of income and expenditure as well as the basis upon which this has been drawn up. The annual report has to be submitted to the directorate, the members

and confederations as well as to the audit commission by the end of January of the following year.

### **Article 37**

#### **Audit Commission**

**1.**

The Commission shall guarantee completeness, correctness and reliability of the financial accounting. It checks the balance sheets and the annual accounts as well as the report of the external auditor (where external auditors have been used). In addition to the above mentioned reports, the audit commission must produce an accompanying accounting report as well as confirmation of the accounts.

**2.**

The Commission consists of the president of the commission and three other members.

**3.**

If the president or a member of the Commission has ceased to hold his post during his tenure, the Director Committee shall appoint an interim replacement who shall hold the post up until the next Congress.

**4.**

The President and the members of the Commission may not belong to the Director Committee. They must be members of various associations and satisfy the independence and reputation criteria in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Congress.

### **Article 38**

#### **Commission for statutes and legal matters**

**1.**

The Commission is responsible for analysing basic legal issues in the sport of pigeon racing and the development of the statutes and regulations of the FCI. It will also act as an investigative commission in line with the code of discipline and conduct (appendix 5).

**2.**

The Commission shall monitor the compliance with the statutes' rules and regulations by the members, bodies and officials of the FCI.

**3.**

The Commission shall advise the Director Committee and the Congress in connection with any arising legal issues.

**4.**

In the event of any legal disputes led by the FCI, the Commission should be approached to act in an advisory function.

### **Article 39**

#### **Sports Commission**

**1.**

The Commission shall prepare the sporting provisions for the FCI World Championship as well as the FCI flight competitions.

**2.**

The Commission shall prepare the provisions for fanciers' and pigeons' participation in the sports classes of the Olympiads. It shall monitor the compliance of these provisions.

**3.**

The Commission shall draft proposals for the design of the pigeons' bands as well as the administrative and technical guidelines for safe conduct in the distance flights of the pigeons.

**4.**

The Commission shall set the conditions for the organisation of flight competitions under the label of the FCI.

**5.**

The Commission is responsible for the organisation of flight competitions provided that these are organised by the FCI.

**6.**

The Commission shall propose to the Director Committee which flight competitions should be assigned to which members.

**7.**

The Commission shall monitor the conditions of the flight competitions of the members which carry out flight competitions on behalf of the FCI.

**8.**

The Commission shall determine the rules and regulations for the World Championships and shall monitor compliance with these rules when awarding the Championship title.

### **Article 40**

#### **Standards Commission**

**1.**

The Commission shall set the standards for pigeons and ensure its continued development.

**2.**

The Commission shall train judges, who shall apply the approved standards for the racing pigeons. It shall draft training and examination guidelines for judges, which must be approved by the Director Committee. It shall assess the trained judges and, if they are successful, award them the appropriate FCI judge certification.

**3.**

The Commission shall set the provisions for the standards classes in the Olympiads. It shall monitor compliance of these provisions and coordinate and monitor the appointment of the certified FCI judges.

#### **Article 41**

##### **Veterinary and Science Commission**

**1.**

The Commission shall dedicate itself to resolving all veterinary issues in connection with the sport of pigeon racing.

**2.**

The Commission shall analyse the scientific publications in the poultry breeding domain and evaluate them for their relevance to the sport of pigeon racing.

**3.**

The Commission shall draw up scientific questions on behalf of the Director Committee with the aim of ensuring the safeguarding and advancement of the sport of pigeon racing.

**4.**

The Commission shall support the Doping Commission in the development of specifications aimed at preventing doping.

**5.**

The Commission shall advise the Director Committee in all veterinary and scientific issues which are relevant to the continuation of the sport of pigeon racing, its representation to the general public, and the resolution with other interests groups and political institutions.

#### **Article 42**

##### **Doping Commission**

**1.**

The Commission is responsible for preventing doping in the sport of pigeon racing.

**2.**

The Commission shall, in consultation with the Veterinary and Science Commission, draft the rules and regulations to ensure that pigeon racing is free from doping.

**3.**

The Commission shall draft specifications to ensure effective monitoring of flight competitions, with the aim of preventing and detecting the use of non-permitted substances.

**4.**

The Commission shall submit the guidelines and policies that it has drafted to the Director Committee for approval.

## **Section VIII. Legal Bodies and Disciplinary Measures**

### **Article 43 Legal Bodies**

**1.**

The legal bodies of the FCI are as follows:

- a) The Disciplinary Committee and
- b) The Appeals Committee.

**2.**

The legal bodies shall consist of a President, a Vice President and three additional members. The President, Vice President and the additional members must be from different member associations.

**3.**

The legal bodies must be assembled such that their members (as a group) possess the knowledge, skills and professional experience necessary for the proper execution of their duties. The President, the Vice President or a member of the legal bodies must each have legal qualifications. The term of office is four years. A re-election is possible, as is a dismissal at any time, whereby the members can only be removed from office by the Congress

**4.**

The Presidents, the Vice Presidents and the additional members of the legal bodies shall be elected by the Congress at the nomination of the members. They may not be members of both legal bodies concurrently. In addition they cannot be members of the Director Committee and the standing commissions.

**5.**

If the President, the Vice President or a member of a legal body has for any reason ceased to carry out his role prior to the termination of his tenure, the Director Committee shall appoint an interim replacement until the next Congress.

**6.**

The decisions of the judicial bodies can only be appealed through referral to national judicial bodies once the case is closed through disciplinary regulatory procedures.

**7.**

The powers of the members and confederations to impose sanctions on their associations, officials, judges and fanciers for sanctionable behavior remains unaffected as long as the sanctionable behaviour does not relate to the FCI.

**8.**

The responsibility and procedures of the legal bodies are regulated in the disciplinary regulations.

## **Article 44**

### **Disciplinary Committee**

**1.**

The Disciplinary Committee shall act in accordance with the FCI Disciplinary Code (Annex 5). It shall make its decisions in the presence of at least three members. In urgent cases, the President may rule alone or make a provisional decision, which must be confirmed by the Disciplinary Committee as soon as possible.

**2.**

The Disciplinary Committee can, under the terms of the statutes and the FCI Disciplinary Regulations, impose sanctions on members, confederations, associations, other groupings, officials, international judges and fanciers competing in competitions organized by the FCI.

**3.**

The disciplinary powers of the Congress and the Director Committee with regard to the suspension and the expulsion of members, remain reserved.

## **Article 45**

### **Appeals Committee**

**1.**

The Appeals Committee shall act in accordance with the FCI Disciplinary Regulations. It shall make its decisions in the presence of at least three members. In urgent cases, the President may rule alone or make a provisional decision, which must be confirmed by the Appeals Committee as soon as possible.

**2.**

The Appeals Committee is responsible for the handling of appeals against decisions made by the Disciplinary Committee which do not ultimately refer to the regulations of the FCI.

**3.**

The decisions of the Appeals Committee are final and binding for all affected parties.

## **Article 46**

### **Disciplinary Measures**

The disciplinary measures can be one or more of the following:

Against natural persons:

- a) Admonition
- b) Reprimand
- c) Fine
- d) Temporary or permanent withdrawal of authority to act as an official or a judge
- e) Suspension



- f) Exclusion
- g) Temporary or complete reversal and withdrawal of prizes and awards.

Against legal persons:

- a) Admonition
- b) Reprimand
- c) Fine
- d) Suspension
- e) Exclusion
- f) Confiscation of titles, prizes and other awards.

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## **Section IX. Arbitration**

### **Article 47**

#### **Cour of Arbitration**

The Disciplinary Committee also serves as an independent court of arbitration for disputes within the FCI as well as between the FCI and the members or the confederations as well as with regards to disputes of the members with the confederations and the members amongst themselves.

### **Article 48**

#### **Competence and responsibility of the court of arbitration**

**1.**

The directorate, the Commissions, the confederations and the members are entitled to invoke the court of arbitration.

**2.**

A court of arbitration can be invoked to appeal against the final decisions of the FCI, the confederations and the members. This shall not apply for decisions made by the Disciplinary / Appeals Commission as well as comparable judicial bodies of the members and confederations.

**3.**

A summoning of the arbitration committee must be submitted within one month after the announcement of the contested decision.

**4.**

The court of arbitration can only be summoned if all other internal options have proved fruitless.

**5.**

The summoning of the arbitration committee shall not carry the effect of delay, unless the competent decision making body of the FCI, imposes a delay upon summoning the court of arbitration.

### **Article 49**

#### **Arbitration procedures**

**1.**

A court of arbitration can be constituted if it is invoked by one party and the opposing party agrees to constitute the court of arbitration.

**2.**

For the court of arbitration the regulation of the disciplinary procedures apply as far as they are relevant.

**Article 50**  
**Obligation of recognition**

**1.**

With the constitution of the court of arbitration and the agreement to the arbitration proceedings both parties recognise the court of arbitration as an independent judicial authority and ensure that its members, as well as the officers, judges and fanciers affiliated with them, abide by the decisions of the court of arbitration.

**2.**

Regular legal methods are prohibited, except in cases expressly stated in the FCI regulations. Regular legal methods are also prohibited for interim legal protection measures.

## **Section X. Approval of FCI Decisions**

### **Article 51 Principle**

**1.**

The members and confederations must accept decisions of the competent FCI authorities as final and definitive (against which, as per these statutes, no appeal can be made).

**2.**

They must take precautions to ensure that their members, as well as the associations, other groupings, officials, judges and fanciers affiliated with them, recognise these decisions.

### **Article 52 Sanctions**

Violations of the foregoing provisions are subject to the FCI Disciplinary Regulations.

## **Section XI. General Secretariat**

### **Article 53**

#### **General Secretariat**

**1.**

The General Secretariat handles all the administrative tasks of the FCI under the leadership of the General Secretary.

**2.**

The General Secretariat's office is at the headquarters of the FCI.

### **Article 54**

#### **General Secretary**

**1.**

The General Secretary is the managing director of the General Secretariat.

**2.**

He shall be employed on the basis of a contract governed by private law which requires the approval of the Director Committee.

**3.**

He is responsible for:

- a) Implementation of the decisions of the Congress, the Director Committee and the Emergency Committee as outlined by the President;
- b) The management and settlement of financial transactions as well as the accounting records of the FCI;
- c) The drafting of the minutes of the meetings of the Congress, the Director Committee, the Emergency Committee, and the standing Commissions and the ad hoc ones;
- d) The correspondence of the FCI;
- e) The relationships with the confederations, members and Commissions;
- f) The organisation of the General Secretariat;
- g) The hiring and dismissal of the staff of the General Secretariat;
- h) The signing of decisions on behalf of the FCI Commissions, as long as there are no other regulations included in the appropriate regulations.

## **Section XII. Finances**

### **Article 55**

#### **Business period**

**1.**

The business period of the FCI is one year and begins on every 1st April and ends on 31<sup>st</sup> March.

**2.**

The revenue and expenditure of the FCI, calculated over the business period, must be balanced. The FCI must endeavour to have adequate reserves to meet future objectives as determined by congress.

**3.**

The General Secretary shall create a draft of the annual budget before each business period and presents it to the Finance Commission (art. 36 No. 6).

**4.**

The General Secretary is responsible for the presentation of the consolidated annual statements of the FCI with its subsidiaries (wherever any have been established) to the Finance Commission (art. 36 No. 7).

### **Article 56**

#### **Auditor**

**1.**

If it's considered necessary by the Director Committee, an auditor shall be appointed.

**2.**

The auditor should check the balance sheet and the annual statements drawn up by the General Secretary, which were duly approved by the Finance Commission, and draft a report which shall be submitted to the Congress.

### **Article 57**

#### **Annual contribution**

**1.**

The annual contribution shall be due for payment on 1st January of each year. Newly recorded members must pay the members' contribution 30 days after the end of the Congress during which they were recorded.

**2.**

The amount of the annual contribution is determined every two years by the Congress, at the request of the Director Committee.

**Article 58**  
**Offsetting**

The FCI can offset its monetary claims against the monetary claims of members and confederations.

EXAMPLE

### **Section XIII. Rights in competitions and events**

#### **Article 59 Rights**

**1.**

The FCI, its members and the confederations are – without any restrictions regarding content, time, place or laws – the original proprietors of all rights which could emerge with distance flights, other competitions and other events which fall within their competence. These rights include, in particular, all types of property rights; recording, playback and broadcast rights (audio-visual and radio); multimedia rights; marketing and promotion rights and intellectual property rights such as feature and copyrights.

**2.**

The Director Committee shall rule on the manner of exploitation and the scope of the use of these rights, and draw up special regulations to this end. The Director Committee shall decide whether to make use of these rights alone, or together with third parties, or to have them evaluated by third parties.

#### **Article 60 Approval**

The FCI, its members and the confederations are exclusively responsible for distance flights, other competitions and other events which fall within their competence, and for authorising distribution via image, sound or other data carriers, and for achieving this without any content, time, place, technical or legal restrictions in connection as far as the distribution is concerned.



## **Section XIV. Olympiads and Competitions**

### **Article 61**

#### **Arrangement of Olympiads and Competitions**

**1.**

The FCI shall organise Olympiads, World Championships and other flight competitions.

**2.**

The conditions for Olympiads, World Championships and other flight competitions are determined by the Director Committee. The respective competent Commissions shall support the Director Committee and develop proposals for decisions.

**3.**

The organisation of Olympiads, World Championships and other flight competitions can be transferred to confederations and associations. Such assignment of authority shall take place at the discretion of the Director Committee.

**4.**

The transfer of responsibility for the Olympiads, World Championships and other flight competitions to confederations and associations can be revoked with immediate effect if it turns out that the event is jeopardised due to lack of preparation or external influences. This revocation shall be instituted by the Emergency Committee and must be confirmed by the Director Committee.

#### **A. Olympiads**

### **Article 62**

#### **Events frequency**

The Olympiads shall be organised every two years.

### **Article 63**

#### **Place and time**

**1.**

The place and time of an Olympiad shall be determined by the Director Committee in good time. There must be a period of at least three years between the decision of the Director Committee regarding the place and time of an Olympiad and the hosting of said Olympiad.

**2.**

If a right to organise an Olympiad given to a confederation or an association is revoked, the Emergency Committee shall be responsible for finding an alternative location and, if appropriate, a new date as soon as possible. The decision of the Emergency Committee requires the confirmation of the Director Committee.

**Article 64**  
**Organisation and monitoring**

The Director Committee is responsible for the organisation of Olympiads and can delegate it to one or more Commissions.

**B. World Championships**

**Article 65**  
**Events frequency**

The Director Committee is responsible for the organisation of a World Championship every year and can delegate it to one or more Commissions.

**Article 66**  
**Announcement**

**1.**  
The World Championship, its provisions and the titles and trophies to be awarded shall be publicly advertised at the beginning of each year.  
Each member shall be receive immediate communication to this effect..

**2.**  
The provisions for the World Championships, and the awarding of the titles and the trophies, shall be determined by the Director Committee. The Sports Commission shall prepare appropriate proposals for the Director Committee.

**Article 67**  
**Organisation and monitoring**

Organisation of World Championships and monitoring of its implementation, is the responsibility of the Sports Commission.

**C. Other Flight Competitions**

**Article 68**  
**Pre-requisites**

The FCI can approve other flight competitions. Such flight competitions can be limited to the region of individual confederations or the regions of multiple associations. The Director Committee, supported by the Sports Commission has decision making responsibility in this matter.

**Article 69**  
**Notification**

All other flight competitions must be publicly announced in the territory to which they extend. The relevant associations must be informed in good time. The notification shall be made once a year.

**Article 70**  
**Organisation and monitoring**

The Director Committee is responsible for the organisation and monitoring of additional flight competitions.

EXAMPLE

## **Section XV. Interim and Final Provisions**

### **A. Disbandment**

#### **Article 71**

##### **Principle**

The FCI is established for an indefinite period. It can only be disbanded by a decision during a Congress.

#### **Article 72**

##### **Dissolution**

The dissolution of the FCI can only be achieved if :

- a) A proposal to the Congress is made by at least 10 members, 5 months before the Congress;
- b) There is a quorum of 80% of the eligible members and;
- c) At least 75% of the members present in the Congress vote in favour of the dissolution.

#### **Article 73**

##### **Utilisation of assets**

If a Congress decides on disbandment of the FCI, then at the same time it shall rule on the utilisation of the existing commercial assets of the FCI.

### **B. Entry into force and repeal**

#### **Article 74**

##### **Entry into force of these statutes**

These statutes shall enter into force on the date of the congress 2019. The candidacy and the elections that will take place in the Congress 2019 must follow the rules provided by these Statutes.

#### **Article 75**

##### **Repeal of the Operation Statutes**

The statutes of the FCI dated 9th January 1948, last amended by the Congress decision dated 17th January 2015, shall be repealed when these statutes enter into force.

## **C. Transitional Provisions**

### **Article 76 Resolution**

The resolution of these statutes shall take place in the FCI Congress on 27th January 2017.

### **Art. 77 Preparation of the Congress during the Olympiad 2019**

The Congress during the Olympiad 2019 is to be prepared on the basis of these articles. In particular, the candidacy for the offices in the FCI are to be submitted on the basis of these Statutes and are in accordance to the time limits laid down in these articles.

### **Article 78 Resident Vice President**

The country which hosts the General Secretariat of the FCI has the right to appoint a Vice President, with full rights, without the need to obtain confirmation of the Congress.

Once the FCI becomes financially autonomous, than this right is forfeited.

## **Procedural Rules of Congress**

### **Article 1**

#### **Participation in the Congress**

**1.**

Each member and each confederation may participate in the congress and debates with a maximum of two delegates.

**2.**

Prior to the congress, the names of the delegates and of such persons exercising their voting right, shall be communicated to the General Secretariat within the time period specified by the General Secretariat. The General Secretariat shall enter the mentioned delegates into a list (number one and two). Such delegate exercising his voting right, shall be entered as number one. Should the delegate with voting right leave the congress during the debates, the delegate mentioned as respective member number two in the delegate list, shall exercise his voting right.

### **Article 2**

#### **Access to the Congress**

**1.**

Additionally to the delegates, other representative of the members and confederations may attend the congress as observers, subject to the condition that at the latest one week before the start of the Congress, their names have been submitted to the General Secretariat, for the approval of their participation.

**2.**

Representatives of the media may observe the congress. Accreditation must be requested at the General Secretariat, at the latest two weeks before the start of the Congress. The General Secretariat shall grant their accreditation, provided there are no compelling reasons for refusal, in view of the FCI, its members and confederation.

### **Article 3**

#### **Chair**

**1.**

The Congress is chaired by the President. If he is impeded to do so, the chair shall be taken by the longest-serving Vice President. In case the Vice President is absent, the President shall be a member of the Director Committee elected by the Congress.

**2.**

The President shall ensure compliance with the present Procedural Rules. He opens and closes the Congress, grants the permission to talk and moderates the discussion.

### **3.**

The President shall conduct the debates in an orderly manner. In the event that any congress participants disturb the debates, he may require the following measures:

- a) Call for silence;
- b) Reprimand;

After exhausting the measures foreseen in point a) & b), the President may seek authority from the Congress to expel a member from participating and voting for one or more agenda items.

### **4.**

Where a statement of objection is lodged against an imposed measure, the Congress shall decide immediately without any debate.

## **Article 4**

### **Tellers**

At the start of the session, the Congress shall designate a reasonable amount of tellers, who cannot be a candidate to a post of FCI. They shall assist him during the distribution and counting of ballots. The Board may resolve to implement electronic tellers for the determination of the amount of votes.

## **Article 5**

### **Interpreters**

The translation in the official congress language shall be performed by accredited interpreters to be designated by the General Secretariat.

## **Article 6**

### **Debates**

#### **1.**

The debates on the singular agenda items shall be opened by a short notice:

- a) By the President or a member designated for this matter by the Director Committee;
- b) By a rapporteur of a Commission designated hereto by the Director Committee;
- c) By a delegate of such a member who has proposed to include the matter into the agenda.

#### **2.**

Next, the President shall open the debate.

## **Article 7**

### **Speaker**

#### **1.**

Both the delegates and members of the Director Committee have right to speak. Nevertheless, as an exception, also other individuals may be granted the right of speech by the President.

#### **2.**

The right to speak is granted in the order as requested. A speaker may only speak when he has been granted permission to do so.

#### **3.**

A speaker may only speak a second time on the same agenda item when all other delegates requesting to speak, have issued their opinion.

## **Article 8 Proposals**

**1.**  
All proposals are submitted in writing. Such proposals which are not relevant for the Agenda item to be treated, shall not be allowed for discussion.

**2.**  
All additional proposals shall be made in writing and submitted to the President before starting the debate.

## **Article 9 Motions of order and closure of debates**

**1.**  
If a motion of order is submitted, the current discussion on the Agenda item shall be interrupted, until the Congress has resolved on the motion.

**2.**  
A motion for the closure of the debate shall immediately and without further discussion be voted on. If the motion is adopted, only such delegates may speak who requested to do so before the voting.

**3.**  
The President closes the debate, if no otherwise is decided by the Congress with a simple majority of the valid votes cast (over 50 percent).

## **Article 10 Votes**

**1.**  
Secret votes are not allowed, without prejudice to Art. 11 no.1 (1).

**2.**  
Before each voting, the President or a person he designates, shall read out the text of the proposal and clarify the voting procedure and the required voting quorum to the Congress. In the case of objection, the Congress shall decide immediately.

**3.**  
The voting can be taken by calling names if this is requested by at least 15 of the persons with right to vote and members present.

**4.**  
Nobody may be forced to vote.

**5.**  
In general, the voting takes place by a show of hands (voting cards) or with the aid of an electronic teller means.



**6.**

Requests are submitted to vote in the order in which they were filed. If more than two main requests have been presented, these shall be voted subsequently. The delegates shall only cast their vote for one of the requests.

**7.**

Additional requests to an amendment request shall be voted before the same. Amendments requests shall again be voted before the main request.

**8.**

The President checks the voting results and notifies the Congress.

**9.**

During the voting and until the notification of the results, nobody has right to speak.

## **Article 11**

### **Elections**

**1.**

For elections, ballots are secret and issued by means of ballot papers or by means of electronic tellers guaranteeing the secrecy of the ballots. The President may not be elected through electronic voting. The General Secretary shall be responsible for the distribution and telling of the ballot papers or the distribution and valuation of the electronic tellers. The tellers shall assist him in this task.

**2.**

The amount of issued ballot papers shall be notified by the President before the counting.

**3.**

If the amount of ballot papers counted is equal to the amount distributed, the election shall be declared as valid. If the amount of ballot papers counted is higher than the amount that was distributed, the election shall be declared as invalid and be repeated immediately.

**4.**

The President notifies the Congress on the result of the election procedure.

**5.**

The issued and counted ballot papers shall be put in envelopes prepared by the General Secretary which are sealed immediately. The envelopes are kept at the General Secretariat, which shall destroy the same one year after the end of the congress.

## **Article 12**

### **Calculation of majorities**

**1.**

The simple majority (over 50 percent) is calculated after elimination of the empty ballots, the invalid votes and the abstentions.

**2.**

The absolute majority (over 50%) is calculated on the basis of the amount of present members with voting right. Abstentions are included in the calculation whilst invalid votes are eliminated.

## **Article 13**

### **Independency**

#### **1.**

A candidate for an office as member of the Director Committee, shall not be considered as independent, if he or a family member (spouse, child, stepchild, one parent, brother/sister, cohabitant, one parent of the spouse/cohabitant, as well as brother/sister and child of the cohabitant) was commercially active in the courier pigeon sport in the last four years before his candidatureship. Commercial activity does not include the occasional sale of racing pigeons within the scope of exercising the racing pigeon sport as a hobby.

#### **2.**

A candidate for an office in the audit commission or in any legal body, shall not be considered as independent, if at any given time, he or a family member (spouse, child, stepchild, one parent, brother/sister, cohabitant, one parent of the spouse/cohabitant, as well as brother/sister and child of the cohabitant) in the last four years before his assumption of office

- had a paid position for, or an agreement (directly or indirectly) with the FCI and/or a member or a confederation (including the herewith associated companies/organizations) or
- was employed by an external legal advisor of the FCI or an FCI auditor and/or a member or a confederation.

#### **3.**

The Appeals Committee checks the available independency criteria of the candidate for an office as a member of the Director Committee.

#### **4.**

The Commission for Statutes and Law checks the available independency criteria of the candidates for the audit commission and legal bodies.

## **Article 14**

### **Background checks**

#### **1.**

The candidates for an office as a member of the Director Committee, the audit commission or a legal body must be of sufficiently good repute. Especially, they must have no criminal records or been sentenced in a disciplinary procedure by the FCI, a member or a confederation.

#### **2.**

The candidates for an office as a member of the Director Committee, the audit commission or a legal body shall be subject to a general background search.

#### **3.**

The background search of the candidate for an office as member of the Director Committee shall be undertaken by the Appeals Committee.

#### **4.**

The Commission for Statutes and Law shall undertake the background search in the case of candidates for offices in a legal body and audit commission.

#### **5.**

Before a reelection or extension of the term of office, the background search shall be revised.

**Article 15**  
**Effectiveness**

The present Procedural Rules of Congress were adopted by the Congress on 27th January 2017 in Brussels and shall be effective as of the date of the Congress 2019.

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## **Procedural Rules of the Director Committee**

### **Article 1 Meetings**

The Director Committee meets in session twice a year. If required, more sessions may be held.

### **Article 2 Access to the meetings**

- 1.**  
Applicants whose requests are included in the Agenda of the meeting, may attend this meeting.
- 2.**  
Any federation and any confederation may send an observer. Such upon the condition that a notification on such observer has been submitted to the General Secretariat at least three days before the date of the meeting.
- 3.**  
Members of the commission are entitled to attend the meetings if the substance matter of the Agenda items to be treated concern their respective commission.
- 4.**  
All persons who have access to the meetings, may be granted with the right of speech.

### **Article 3 Chair**

- 1.**  
The Director Committee is chaired by the President. If he is impeded to do so, the chair shall be taken by the longest-serving Vice President. In the case of absence of the Vice President, the Director Committee shall appoint one of its members as chairperson for the respective meeting.
- 2.**  
The President shall ensure observance of the present Procedural Rules. He opens and closes the meetings, grants the permission to talk and moderates the debate.

### **Article 4 Representation of the members of the Director Committee**

- 1.**  
The Vice Presidents are represented among themselves.
- 2.**  
The Presidents of the standing Commissions are represented among themselves.

**3.**

During each meeting of the Director Committee after a Congress, the Director Committee shall decide on a representation plan.

## **Article 5**

### **Languages**

**1.**

The official languages of the Director Committee are English, French and German.

**2.**

The Director Committee may decide unanimously that during its meetings only one or two of the languages mentioned under number 1 are spoken.

**3.**

Members of the Director Committee as well as representatives of federations and confederations having access to the meetings, may each contract an interpreter for the language of their country.

## **Article 6**

### **Votes**

**1.**

Voting right is only held by the members of the Director Committee.

**2.**

In principle, the votes are public.

**3.**

Votes are cast by a show of hands.

**4.**

The President and/or at least 5 members of the Director Committee can request a secret ballot.

**5.**

The wording of the respective request submitted to voting shall be determined by the President.

**6.**

A request is adopted, if the simple majority (over 50 percent) of the votes cast are in favor of the same. In case of equal votes the vote cast by the Chairman shall determine the result.

**7.**

Voting is not required, when during the debate, the Director Committee members unanimously pronounce themselves in favor of a request, or unanimously adopt the decisions from the commissions or the appointment of the members of the commissions (acclamation).

**8.**

The appointment of the General Secretary shall in all cases be executed by voting.

## **Article 7**

### **Minutes**

**1.**

The General Secretary shall format the minutes in English, within four weeks after the Director Committee meeting.

**2.**

The minutes are approved by the Chairman within eight weeks after the meeting, after which the same shall be send to the members of the Director Committee, the federations and confederations.

**3.**

The members of the Director Committee as well as the federations and confederations, whose requests were addressed in the meeting, may file an objection against the minutes, within four weeks after receipt of the minutes. The Director Committee shall decide on such an objection in its next meeting.

## **Article 8**

### **Effectiveness**

The present Procedural Rules of the Director Committee were adopted by the Congres on 27th January 2017 in Brussels and shall be effective as of the date of the Congress 2019.

## **General Procedural Rules for the Commissions**

### **Article 1**

#### **Members and specialist advisors**

**1.**

The Commissions are composed of the President elected by the Congress and a minimum of three other members. The number of other members of each commission shall be determined by the Director Committee.

**2.**

If expert advisors are requested by a commission, these advisors shall be on an equal footing with the commission members. Article 6 no.1 remains unaffected.

### **Article 2**

#### **Meetings**

**1.**

Each commission shall meet in session at least once a year. Other meetings shall be called upon by the President of the commissions.

**2.**

The meetings of the commissions shall be moderated by the respective President.

**3.**

The Agenda of a meeting is determined by the President of the commission.

**4.**

Federations and confederations may request that specific issues are treated in the meeting. The requests are to be included in the respective Agenda.

### **Article 3**

#### **Access to meetings**

**1.**

The members of the Director Committee may attend the meetings of the Commissions.

**2.**

Representatives of the federations and confederations, who have contributed with business to the Agenda of a meeting, may send representatives for the evaluation of such issues.

**3.**

The members of the Director Committee and the representatives of federations and confederations permitted under number 2, have right of speech.

#### **Article 4**

##### **Representation of the President**

**1.**

In the event the President is impeded, he shall be represented by a representative determined by the Director Committee (art. 4 no. 2 and 3 Procedural Rules of the Director Committee).

**2.**

Should nor the President nor his representative be present in a commission meeting, the Chair shall be taken by the eldest commission member.

#### **Article 5**

##### **Languages**

**1.**

The debates shall be held in the languages as determined by the respective commission for its meetings. If possible, only one language is to be used.

**2.**

If more languages are used, only a maximum of three languages are allowed.

**3.**

If more languages have been determined, the President of the commission shall provide for a qualified translation. The General Secretariat shall support him for the same.

#### **Article 6**

##### **Votes**

**1.**

The respective members of a commission have the right of vote.

**2.**

In principle, the votes are public.

**3.**

Votes are cast by a show of hands.

**4.**

The President can arrange a secret ballot.

**5.**

The wording of a business submitted to the vote is determined by the President of the commission.

**6.**

A request is adopted, when the simple majority (over 50 percent) of the votes cast are in favor of the same. In case of equal votes, the vote cast by the President shall determine the result.

**7.**

A voting is not required, if during the debate the members of the commission pronounce themselves unanimously in favor of a request (acclamation).



**Article 7**  
**Minutes**

**1.**

A representative of the General Secretariat shall take the minutes in English within four weeks after the meeting.

**2.**

The respective incumbent President of the commission shall sign the minutes within eight weeks after the meeting.

**3.**

After signing, the President of the commission shall submit the minutes to the General Secretary. Additionally, the approval by the Director Committee of the decisions, contained in the minutes, shall be requested.

**4.**

The members of the respective commission as well as the representatives of the associations and confederations, whose requests were treated in the meeting, may file an objection against the minutes. The commission shall decide on such objection in its next meeting.

**Article 8**  
**Effectiveness**

The present General Procedural Rules for the Commissions were adopted by the Congress on 27th January 2017 in Brussels and shall be effective as of the date of the Congress 2019.

## **Special Procedural Rules for the Audit Commission**

### **Article 1 Meetings**

- 1.**  
Each Commission meets in a regular session at least once a year. Other meetings take place if these are called upon by the President.
- 2.**  
The Agenda of a meeting shall be determined by the President.

### **Article 2 Access to the meetings**

- 1.**  
The meetings of the Commission are not public.
- 2.**  
Non-members shall only have access to the meetings of the Commission, if they are invited to the same by the President. The right of access is limited to the business of the meeting, for which the invitation was made.

### **Article 3 Notification obligation for the members of the Board and the General Secretary**

The members of the Director Committee and the General Secretary have an unrestricted obligation of reporting and notification with regards to the commission.

### **Article 4 Representation of the President**

- 1.**  
The commission elects one member among them, who shall represent the President if he is impeded.
- 2.**  
Should nor the President nor the representative be present in a meeting, the chair shall be taken by the eldest Commission member present in the meeting.

### **Article 5 Languages**

- 1.**  
The language(s) of the debate shall be determined by the members of the Commission.

**2.**

The members of the Commission shall advise each other in the language of the debate. If required, the President may contract an interpreter.

#### **Article 6**

##### **Decisions**

The Commission adopts its decisions by simple majority. In case of equal votes, the vote cast by the President shall determine the result.

#### **Article 7**

##### **Minutes**

**1.**

No minutes shall be taken of the meetings of the Commission.

**2.**

The decisions of the Commission shall be recorded in an informative report. Such informative report shall be signed by the President and another Commission member.

**3.**

The report of the Commission must be send to the FCI-President, the FCI-Vice Presidents and the General Secretary, in a delay of four weeks.

#### **Article 8**

##### **Effectiveness**

The present Special Procedural Rules for the Audit Commission were adopted by the Congress on 27th January 2017 in Brussels and shall be effective as of the date of the Congress 2019.

**Disciplinary rules**

[Will be discussed at the Congress in 2019]

EXAMPLE

## **Regulations on travel expenses**

### **Article 1**

#### **Group of persons with entitlements**

The Director Committee shall decide on the group of persons and functions for which travel expenses shall be reimbursed, as well on which occasions this is applicable.

### **Article 2**

#### **Definition of travel expenses**

##### **1.**

Travel expenses are the reimbursement of expenses for an activity exclusively performed for and ordered by the FCI, requiring the traveling from one location to another between the residence and office to the place where the activity takes place, as well as for the duration of the trip and the return trip, in virtue of this regulation on travel expenses. Such travel expenses must be reasonable and economically feasible and exclusively directed at the achievement of the desired objective.

##### **2.**

The reimbursement of travel expenses includes the compensation of all other expenses incurred by the entitled individual, with regards to his business trip.

##### **3.**

Travel expenses include:

- a) Additional meal expenses,
- b) Transport costs,
- c) Accommodation expenses as well as
- d) other additional expenses.

##### **4.**

#### **Travel expenses in detail are classified as follows:**

- a) Additional meal expenses

The amount of the additional meals costs to be reimbursed shall be determined each year by the Director Committee, if required. The amount is specifically determined by the respective destiny areas of the trip.

- b) Transport costs

Transport costs shall principally include the most economically transport for the purpose intended, whereby special fees must be taken into account.

- Rail travel:  
For rail travel, in principle, 2nd class shall be used.
- Use of private cars:  
When private cars are used, the shortest travel distance shall be opted for; the use of car sharing is mandatory, and the costs shall be settled accordingly.
- Other public transport means:

Other public transport means are any public passenger or local transport, as well as taxis.

- Flights:  
Flights may be used, when the respective costs of the flight do not exceed the costs of trains or other public transport means, or when a flight is required for time-saving reasons. Economy Class must be used.

c) Accommodation costs

In principle, the economically most favorable accommodation for the intended purpose must be opted for. In principle, accommodation costs shall only be reimbursed, if after the respective event, the return trip is considered unreasonable. Hotel bookings are exclusively made by the General Secretariat.

d) Other additional expenses:

Other travel expenses are for example, park expenses, toll costs and likewise.

### **Article 3**

#### **Amount of reimbursement**

**1.**

Additional meal expenses are reimbursed for the amount as determined by the Director Committee.

**2.**

Transport costs shall be reimbursed for the following amount:

- Rail travel: actual costs (ticket) against individual certificate.
- Journeys with own vehicle: each started kilometer of the forward and return trip at a reimbursement rate of EUR 0.30.
- Trips with public transport means: actual costs (ticket) against individual certificate.
- Trips with airplane: actual costs (ticket) against individual certificate.

**3.**

Reimbursed accommodation costs shall be the actual costs for a single room in a hotel up to the average mid-luxury class against individual certificate (hotel invoice).

**4.**

Any other additional travel expenses shall be reimbursed according to the actual costs against individual certificate (ticket, receipt).

### **Article 4**

#### **Requests for reimbursement**

**1.**

The request shall be submitted to the General Secretariat according to the completed form.

**2.**

The required original certificate shall be annexed to the request.

**3.**

The request for reimbursement shall be submitted to the General Secretariat at the latest two months after the end of the trip. Requests submitted after this deadline shall not be reimbursed.

**Article 5**

**Approval procedure**

All activities for which costs are incurred in virtue of this travel expenses regulation, shall be approved by the President.

**Article 6**

**Effectiveness**

The present Travel Expenses Regulations were resolved by the Congress on 27th January 2017 in Brussels and shall be effective as of the date of the Congress 2019.