



Statutes for the International Jumping Officials Club – IJOC

Approved at General Assembly on 23/01/2022 online

Article 1. Name, address and legal seat

1. The Club shall bear the name of “International Jumping Officials Club”, with the abbreviation ‘IJOC’, hereinafter called IJOC;
2. The postal address shall be situated at the address of the Secretary General of the IJOC, but can be moved to any location, according to a decision of the annual General Assembly;
3. The registered legal seat shall be at the offices of the FEDERATION SUISSE DES SPORTS EQUESTRES, hereinafter called FSSE, in Bern, Switzerland and all legal matters shall be dealt with under Swiss Civil Code.
4. The FSSE will not be responsible for any third-party liability and will not assume any legal or financial responsibility for the IJOC

Article 2. Objectives

1. The IJOC shall be the connecting body for all FEI-listed Judges, Stewards and Course Designers in the discipline of jumping and the Club shall pursue objectives of a public interest only;
2. The objectives of the IJOC shall not be of a commercial nature of any kind. The resources of the IJOC may only be used in accordance with these Statutes and must be utilised directly or indirectly only in relation to the purposes of the Club, as stated in article 3, paragraph 1.

Article 3. Purpose

1. The purpose of the IJOC is to bring together, develop and promote all issues and interests with regard to judging, stewarding and course designing at international jumping events as well as promoting good horsemanship.
2. The IJOC’s objectives are in particular:
 - a) To contribute to the independent position of jumping officials as well as the impartial exercise of their duties;
 - b) To cooperate with international equestrian associations and other associations concerning judging, stewarding and course designing at international jumping events under the patronage of the FEI;
 - c) To assist in the continuous training of, and to organize meetings and seminars for, its Members;
 - d) To defend and represent the interests of its Members;
 - e) To provide statements and opinions about judging, stewarding and course designing matters and about the future development of the FEI jumping rules;
 - f) To act as an expert body in its field towards the FEI and other international equestrian organisations, especially in matters regarding the technical aspects of international show jumping events;
 - g) To keep in close contact with the FEI and other organisations in equestrian sport, such as but not limited to the International Jumping Riders Club (IJRC), the International Association of Chefs d’Equipe in Show Jumping (IACS) and the Equestrian Organisers (EO)
 - h) To promote and preserve good horsemanship and the welfare of the horse in general, in keeping with the spirit of the FEI Code of Conduct.

Article 4. Affiliation

1. The IJOC distinguishes honorary, senior and ordinary Members;
2. In order to become an ordinary Member, the name of the person concerned must appear on at least one of the FEI lists of Judges, Stewards and Course Designers for jumping.
3. Honorary Members are recognised and appointed as such by the General Assembly, following nomination by the Board, provided they have given special services to the IJOC. Senior Members are those who have been an ordinary and continuous member in good standing for twenty (20) or more years;
4. Honorary and Senior Members do not pay the annual subscription.
- 4.

Article 5. Application for Membership & Members’ Voting Rights

1. Applications for Membership shall be made in writing to the Board, by completing the official application form on the IJOCs website.
 2. The Board shall decide whether or not an application for Membership is accepted; the Board may however postpone a decision on an application if this does not (yet) satisfactorily meet the requirements, set in article 4 paragraph 2;
-



3. In the event of the application being rejected, the Secretary General shall communicate the reason(s) to the applicant in writing and, if the applicant so wishes, the matter shall be passed on to the next General Assembly, that will take the final decision.
4. New candidates for membership who apply in less than 120 days to the next General Assembly in any year shall acquire the right to vote on all matters after 12 months of continuous membership.
5. Members' Voting Rights: with the exception of those members mentioned in paragraph 4 above, Honorary Members and all Members who are current with their annual subscription shall be eligible to vote in elections for Board Members via the electronic or any other voting system as, in person or by proxy on all matters requiring a vote.

Article 6. Expiry, Suspension and Expulsion

1. Membership shall expire through resignation, expulsion or death;
2. Resignation shall only be validated at the end of the calendar year. A written statement must be submitted to the Board and the Member concerned is – at all times – bound to pay the annual subscription for the current year; any paid membership fees are non-refundable;
3. A Member may be suspended by the Board, following advice of the Treasurer, for failure to pay in full the annual subscription within six months of the date of invoice;
4. Notwithstanding the contents of article 6 paragraph 3, a Member who has not paid the annual subscription at the latest the day before the General Assembly of the same financial year shall be automatically suspended until the Member concerned has met his liabilities;
5. Expulsion shall be authorised when a Member:
 - a) shows a delay of more than one year in the payment of his annual subscription and does not adhere to the second reminder by the Treasurer;
 - b) does not fulfil his obligations as a Member;
 - c) acts against the interests of the sport or the IJOc;
 - d) behaves against common principles of behaviour;
6. An expulsion shall be decided by the Board and – in order to be valid – must be communicated in writing, both by electronic (provided an e-mail address is available) and registered mail, by the Secretary General, to the Member concerned;
7. An appeal may be lodged against a decision, under article 6 paragraph 6, to the next annual General Assembly, which will take the final decision on the expulsion;
8. To be valid the appeal, under article 6 paragraph 7, must be made in writing by the Member concerned within six weeks of the official date of sending the Board's decision by registered mail; the appeal must be addressed to the General Assembly, through the Secretary General and must include a duly motivated reasoning for objecting against the expulsion;
9. A Member who has been expelled ceases to be a Member of the IJOc; in order to become a Member again the person concerned must make a new application;
10. An application, under article 6 paragraph 9, may be made at the earliest three years after the date of that decision, under article 6 paragraph 6, became final.

Article 7. Members' obligations

1. Members shall be required to support the IJOc in the course of its work, to respect the Statutes, as well as to pay to the IJOc the annual subscriptions as set by the General Assembly within the required timescales and deadlines;
2. Members acknowledge that the Statutes of the Club, IJOc Internal Regulations and the Rules and Regulations of the FEI constitute the basis of their work as international show jumping officials and recognise their legal relationship with respect to the FEI.

Article 8. Managing bodies

1. The managing bodies of the IJOc are:
 - a) the General Assembly in session;
 - b) the Board;
2. The managing bodies can form advisory or working committees/groups consisting of Members or non-Member consultants; these advisory bodies can be installed for a limited period of time and/or for certain duly specified matters only;



3. The Board shall also be entitled to appoint expert Members as consultants in certain fields. The duration of appointments of consultants may not exceed the duration of the appointments of Members of the Board; however, consultants may be re-appointed.

Article 9. The Board

1. The Board shall consist of a President and a minimum of four and a maximum of eight Members;
2. The General Assembly in session shall decide upon the total number of Board Members, thus respecting the limits under article 9 paragraph 1;
3. The maximum number of Board Members, including the President, representing the same nationality shall be two;
4. The President and the Members of the Board shall be elected by the General Assembly for a period of three years; with the exception of the provision in article 9 paragraph 6, they shall remain in office until the end of the third annual General Assembly after their election, unless they resign or cease to be Members for any other reason;
5. The President and the Members of the Board shall be eligible for re-election for a maximum of two full terms; once a Board Member has served a maximum of three full terms or has resigned during his/her term, (s)he may stand again for election after three years.
6. In order to establish an annual rotation of one third of the Board Members, at the first Board meeting following a General Assembly electing all Board Members, the Board shall establish a rotation schedule to determine one third of the Board Members – excluding the President – who will step down after one year and (if they so wish) stand for re-election at the next General Assembly;
7. In the event of a vacancy arising for any reason other than the normal ending of a term of office, the person elected to fill the vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the original term; filling a vacancy for any period of less than three years, does not count as a full term under the provisions of article 9 paragraph 4;
 - a) In the event a board seat(s) becomes vacant 120 days or less prior to the next General Assembly, the vacancies shall be filled provided there are more candidates than vacancies at the General Assembly by the total votes allocated in descending order. In the event, there are not more candidates than vacancies the seat(s) shall remain vacant until the following General Assembly.
 - b) In the event of a President's seat becoming vacant at a time 120 days or less to the next General Assembly, then the Vice President through a board decision shall be appointed as the Acting President until the second next General Assembly.
8. Board Membership is honorary and carries no remuneration; expenses incurred while fulfilling the functions of a Board member may however be met by the IJOC;
9. Notwithstanding the provisions under article 9 paragraph 8, Board members shall travel to and stay at the venue for any General Assembly at their own account.

Article 10. Election of the Board

1. The election shall be held by secret ballot; an appeal for candidates shall be launched by the Secretary General at least three months before the date of the General Assembly;
2. To be eligible for the election, the candidate must be a minimum FEI Level 2 official and must have been an IJOC member in good standing for the last 36 months. The candidates for the Board should send their application in writing to the Secretary General, within 30 days after the launch of the appeal. This may be done via electronic mail
3. The Board should establish a reliable electronic voting system to be used according to the instructions that will be indicated at the appropriate time.
4. During the General Assembly two ballot officials/scrutineers will be designated and subsequently presented to the General Assembly for approval. They will be assisted by a secretary who, under the supervision of the Members present, will process the results of the electronic voting system; candidates for the Board may not act as a ballot official/scrutineer;
5. The result of the voting shall be put in writing and duly signed by the scrutineers in charge of processing the votes;
6. Candidates shall be elected by a simple majority, respecting the provisions laid down in article 9 paragraph 2; in the event of a tie, a draw which must take place during the General Assembly, shall decide;
7. In keeping with the provisions of article 9 paragraph 3, if more than two people of the same nationality, including the President, are elected as Board Members, those with the most votes shall be selected, and those following shall be replaced by the person/s immediately below them in the final results of the voting.



8. In the event that the online voting system is not available, a voting system by ballots will be established. The vote will take place during the General Assembly.

Article 11. Organisation of the Board

1. The Board shall be composed as follows:
 - a) a President, elected as such for a term of three years;
 - b) a Vice-President;
 - c) a Treasurer;
 - d) a Secretary General;
 - e) a maximum of five additional Members;
2. Whenever a President is elected or re-elected, the Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary General in office must resign as such. In this case the Board will re-allocate duties to its Members; Board Members who formerly held these positions may be reappointed.
3. The distribution of duties within the Board should be done during the first Board meeting following the General Assembly. The Board may appoint Members to other duties at that or any other time;
4. For practical reasons - in order to centralise the IJOC management - the roles of Treasurer and of Secretary General may be combined, if the Board so decides;
5. During the period between General Assemblies, the Board shall take care of the general policy, management and control of the IJOC and of all other matters not reserved under the Statutes to the General Assembly; the Board shall moreover execute the decisions taken by the General Assembly;
6. Notwithstanding the contents of article 11 paragraph 5, the Board may take decisions on behalf of the General Assembly in urgent cases; such decisions must be confirmed at the next session of the General Assembly;
7. Any two different persons together with the President, the Vice-President, the Treasurer and the Secretary General, have the power of attorney of the IJOC.
8. Regional Representatives (RR)
 - a) At any of its meetings, the Board may also designate the Regional Representatives whose duties are detailed in the relevant "Job Description. Such details and the eligibility criteria are stipulated in the IJOC Internal Regulations.
 - b) Before the General Assembly, the Board will schedule a meeting with the Regional Representatives to discuss their activity during the previous year, and to note any suggestions or proposals aimed at increasing the Club's membership and geographical footprint.

Article 12. President

1. The President is responsible for ensuring that the purposes and principles of the Club are observed and for the general supervision of all its activities; (s)he is also responsible for ensuring that the Club's activities and communication are compliant with the MOU between the Club and the FEI, or any other MOUs entered into with other organisations in equestrian sport as provided in article 3 paragraph g.
2. Subject to article 18 paragraph 1 the President shall take the Chair at all sessions of the General Assembly and at all meetings of the Board, unless he delegates this duty or is temporarily unable to carry it out himself;
3. Proposals for candidates for election to the office of President from Members must reach the Secretary General by a date decided by the Board; the Board will notify the list of candidates, including its own nominees, to the Members, not later than 30 days before the relevant session of the General Assembly.

Article 13. Vice-President

1. The Vice-President shall co-operate with the President according to a delegation of duties as defined by the Board;

Article 14. Treasurer

1. The Treasurer is responsible for the financial management of the Club, within the budget;
2. The financial report and accounts, which have been approved by the auditors elected by the General Assembly under article 17 paragraph 10-k of these Statutes, will be presented by the Treasurer to the Board and to the annual General Assembly, together with the draft budget for the next financial year.

Article 15. Secretary General

1. The Secretary General is responsible for:



- a) The management of the secretariat of the Club and for dealing with all specific duties assigned to him/her according to these Statutes;
 - b) The execution and/or implementation of the policies and decisions of the General Assembly and the Board;
 - c) The preparation for, and the arrangements for taking the minutes of, all official IJOC meetings;
 - d) The preparation and presentation of the Annual Report to the General Assembly in session;
 - e) The correspondence of the IJOC;
 - f) The observance of the principles and spirit of these Statutes and to ascertain that any contraventions are brought to the notice of the Board.
2. The Board may allocate additional responsibilities to the tasks of the Secretary General.

Article 16. Meetings of the Board

1. The Board shall meet following the General Assembly and at least once during each calendar year, unless otherwise decided as necessary; special meetings may be convened at the request of the President or two-thirds of the Board Members;
2. The Board shall decide the date and the place of the next meeting, but if it does not do so, the President shall decide and notify the Board Members at least 4 weeks before the meeting is due to take place;
3. Items proposed for the agenda by Board Members must reach the Secretary General at least two weeks before the meeting is due to take place;
4. The agenda, together with the supporting documents, must be sent to the Board Members at least one week before the meeting;
5. The Board shall be entitled to make decisions when at least 51% of the Board Members including the President or the Vice-President are present;
6. Decisions will be taken by a simple majority; in the event of a tie, the vote of the Chairman of the meeting shall be decisive;
7. The President may invite one or more experts on the subjects on the agenda to attend a meeting of the Board, in a consultative capacity;
8. Minutes of each Board meeting shall be drawn up; they shall contain all decisions made by the Board; a copy of the minutes shall be sent to the Board Members not later than six weeks after the meeting;
9. Board meetings via telephone or video/telephone conference are acceptable and must be recorded as Board meeting minutes.

Article 17. General Assembly of Members

1. Once a year, the Board shall convene the annual General Assembly, not later than March 31st;
2. The date and place of all General Assemblies shall be decided by the Board;
3. General Assemblies conducted via live online platforms are considered as official and all decisions taken at such meetings are binding.
4. The General Assembly, in session under the Statutes, is the supreme authority of the IJOC;
5. An extraordinary meeting can be convened when the Board or one third of the Members, entitled to vote, so requests;
6. The Board is bound to invite Members to the meetings in writing, with the agenda being submitted;
7. A minimum period of one month shall separate the dates between the invitation and the meeting; the invitation shall not be made more than two months before the meeting;
8. Electronic mail shall be accepted as written invitation;
9. Any proposals or requests to the General Assembly by the Members must be submitted in writing to the Board at least two weeks (14 days) before the date of the meeting; electronic mail shall be accepted;
10. With the exception of the provision made in article 19 paragraph 11, decisions cannot be taken for proposals or requests submitted later than the stipulated time or in matters not notified in the agenda;
11. The annual General Assembly has the following functions and powers:
 - a) to elect the Chairman of the meeting, if necessary;
 - b) to approve the minutes of the previous session;
 - c) to elect the scrutineers;
 - d) to accept the annual activity report of the Board;
 - e) to endorse the accounts for the financial year;



- f) to accept the auditors' report;
 - g) to approve the annual discharge of the Board;
 - h) to elect the President;
 - i) to establish the total number of Board Members;
 - j) to elect new Board Members
 - k) to elect the auditors;
 - l) to set the level of the annual subscriptions;
 - m) to decide upon appeals against denied membership;
 - n) to decide upon appeals against expulsion;
 - o) to approve an activity plan as presented by the Board for the coming year and endorse a budget for the same;
 - p) to deal with all subjects, proposals and requests made by the Board and mentioned in the agenda;
 - q) to deal with requests by Members, providing they are delivered according to the provisions of article 17 paragraph 8;
 - r) to modify the Statutes;
 - s) to decide about the dissolution of the IJOC;
12. Only the President, on behalf of the Board, has the right to invite guests to attend the annual General Assembly.

Article 18. Chairman

1. The Chairman of the General Assembly shall be the President of the IJOC or, on his proposal, any other Member approved by the General Assembly;
2. If the President is not present and has not delegated the Chairmanship, the Vice-President or – in his absence – the Treasurer will automatically act as Chairman of the General Assembly;
3. Should none of the above be available, the General Assembly shall elect one of the Members present, to take the Chair.

Article 19. Decisions and Voting

1. Except in the event of indication to the contrary, decisions shall be taken by an overall majority; an overall majority is one half plus one of the valid ballots cast, not counting abstentions;
2. Written proxy may transfer voting rights; however, no Member may acquire more than three votes, transfers by proxies included;
3. The Secretary General shall check the credentials of the Members present, including deeds of proxy;
4. The scrutineers shall establish the number of ballots entitled to be cast; they shall supervise and count the ballots cast;
5. The total number of votes entitled to be cast shall be the sum of the votes of the accredited Members present, plus any valid proxies;
6. A written secret ballot shall be compulsory for all contested elections (see article 10) and for the dissolution of the IJOC;
7. All other decisions shall be taken by a show of hands, unless the Chairman or at least one quarter of those present and entitled to vote demand a secret ballot;
8. In the event of a tie the vote of the Chairman shall be decisive, except in elections, where a draw will decide;
9. Minutes of each General Assembly meeting shall be drawn up, containing all decisions taken by the General Assembly and - where applicable - the date(s) where they are to come into effect, as well as the result(s) of the voting;
10. The minutes shall be, made available via publication on the IJOC website, not later than 12 weeks following the date of the General Assembly; the minutes must be approved at the next session of the General Assembly and signed by the President and the Secretary General;
11. All matters where decisions are to be taken by the General Assembly must be notified in the agenda; however, in exceptional cases and with the agreement of the overall majority of the General Assembly in session, the Board may add an item after the agenda has been distributed to the Members.

Article 20. Agenda

The Board shall establish the agenda for the annual General Assembly; the agenda must at least include the following points:

- a) Opening of the assembly;
- b) Election of the Chairman for the meeting, should this be necessary under the provisions of article 18 paragraph 3;
- c) Appointment of ballot officials/scrutineers, proposed by the Board;
- d) Approval of the agenda for the meeting;
- e) Endorsement of the minutes of the previous General Assembly;
- f) Presentation of the annual activity report as drawn up by the Board;



- g) Endorsement of the annual activity report;
- h) Presentation of the accounts;
- i) Presentation of the auditors' report;
- j) Endorsement of the accounts;
- k) Discharge of the Board;
- l) Presentation of the activity plan for the coming period, suggested by the Board;
- m) Setting of the level of the annual subscription as proposed by the Board;
- n) Approval of the proposed budget for the coming period;
- o) Decision regarding the number of Members on the Board;
- p) Counting of the votes to elect the President of the IJOC, if he/she is due to step down or retire;
- q) Counting of the votes to elect Members to the Board, replacing the ones due to step down or retire;
- r) Electing the auditors;
- s) Decision on all matters presented in the summons of the meeting;
- t) Decision on matters requested by the Members according to these statutes, as far as specified on the agenda as well as on matters presented as provided for in article 19 paragraph 11;
- u) Other matters brought forward, where formal decisions cannot be made;
- v) Closing of the General Assembly.

Article 21. Official Languages

English shall be the official language of the IJOC;

Article 22. Financial Year

The Financial Year shall be from 1 January up to and including 31 December.

Article 23. Legal structure

1. These Statutes define the structure under which the legal responsibilities of the IJOC are to be exercised;
2. In all matters of civil litigation involving the IJOC, Swiss law shall apply; all civil actions (litigation) shall be brought before the Swiss Courts of the city in which the legal seat of the IJOC is located (see article 1, paragraph 3), subject to requirements regarding arbitration under the Statutes;
3. All Members, involved in any activity within the jurisdiction of the Statutes, undertake to recognise the authority and responsibilities of the FEI Tribunal and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in the performance of the duties required of them under the Statutes.
4. The Board, appointed in accordance with the Statutes, has the authority to make decisions under the Statutes and to impose penalties for violation of the Statutes and for any contravention of the common principles of behaviour, fairness and accepted standards of sportsmanship, according to the relevant provisions in the Statutes;
5. In order to ensure that the execution of these responsibilities is carried out according to the highest standards of justice and equality, the following procedures are established:
 - a) The FEI Tribunal shall decide on all cases which are outside the competence of any other body established under these Statutes and on all other cases which are properly referred to it;
 - b) A procedure of independent arbitration before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), to hear all disputes and appeals against decisions for which reference to arbitration is provided in the Statutes.

Article 24. Modification to the Statutes

1. The Statutes are established by the General Assembly; the Statutes shall remain in effect until modified;
2. Proposals for modification from ordinary Members must reach the Secretary General by 15th September in the year prior to the year in which the Statutes are being revised;
3. All Members must be given at least eight weeks to study a draft of the revised Statutes and to propose any modifications thereto;
4. The final draft must be sent to, or made available via publication on the IJOC official website for, the Members not later than 30 days before the General Assembly is due to take place;
5. In principle modifications to the Statutes are made every three years; the Board may however propose modifications or the suspension of particular articles or paragraphs for approval by the General Assembly during the three-year period;
6. Modifications must be approved by a two-thirds majority of all valid ballots cast, i.e. disregarding abstentions.



Article 25. Dissolution

1. The dissolution of the IJOc may be decided only at a General Assembly convened for that purpose;
2. Two-thirds of the Members, entitled to vote, must be present or formally represented for the session to be valid; if insufficient numbers are present, the Board will convene a further session after a period of no less than 30 days and such a session will be valid, irrespective of the number of Members present or represented;
3. Should the IJOc be dissolved, after settlement of all undertakings, any assets shall be transferred to the Fédération Equestre Internationale; the FEI shall use these funds for the benefit of educating show jumping officials.

Article 26. Transitory provisions

1. As a transitory provision and for the purpose of facilitating the introduction of modifications to the previous Statutes, notwithstanding anything contained in the text of the Statutes, the new text of the Statutes shall come into effect on the date decided by the General Assembly;
2. All modifications or amendments with reference to the Legal Structure shall apply to any case that arises after the enforcement date of the new Statutes; any case arising before that date and still pending decision will be governed by the previous texts of the Statutes.

These Statutes have been endorsed by the IJOc online General Assembly on 23.01.2022.

President of the IJOc
Glenn Maes

Secretary General of the IJOc
Teodor Sheytanov