



STATUTES OF THE FITE

Amended the 4 September 2016

CHAPTER I - OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES

Article 1

On 13 May 1975 (Official Journal dated 28 January 1976) an association was founded by the national equestrian tourism organisations of France, Italy and Belgium, going by the name of the Fédération Internationale de Tourisme Équestre (FITE). This association has the following objectives:

- to group together the organisations who are in charge in their national territory of the organization of equestrian tourism, and horse riding as leisure activity in all its forms, designated by National Equestrian Tourism Organisations in the present statutes (designated by the abbreviation NETO) on an international level,
- to use all means to facilitate relations and understanding between the different member Organisations, to give them support, help and encouragement, to strengthen their authority and prestige,
- to co-ordinate and harmonise their actions, to define the application procedures for Equestrian Tourism on an international level,
- to promote all different types of ridden or driven Equestrian Tourism as well as all other types of equine leisure activities, as defined by the General Assembly,
- to promote the organisation of meetings and international equestrian competitions,
- to draw national and international authorities' attention to any issue and regulation directly or indirectly concerning equestrian tourism,
- to organise, regulate, develop and promote TREC (Equestrian Trail Riding Techniques) competitions both ridden or driven, in addition to pasture or working equitation,
- and generally, to take an interest, on an international level, in all horse related issues relative to tourism, open-air activities, the Environment, conservation of trekking paths and roads, as well as any question which could be directly or indirectly linked with one of the above-mentioned subjects, or any other similar or related subject.

Article 2

The FITE and the Members will act in accordance with the following principles:

- the FITE recognises the exclusive competency of the Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI) regarding the regulations and the organization of equestrian competitions in the disciplines it manages,
- the FITE is based on the principle of equity and mutual respect from all the Members, without prejudice in regards to race, color, religion or interior politics,
- the Members recognise the FITE as the only international authority in regards to equestrian tourism. The Members agree to the fact that they cannot become affiliated to any other equivalent organisation that pursues similar goals,

- the FITE and its Members undertake to respect and to apply the statutes, the general regulation and specific regulations,
- conflicts on the interpretation or the application of the statutes or the FITE's general and specific regulations will be settled by an arbitration committee comprising 3 members of the Board of directors, designated by the latter for this purpose. The FITE 's general assembly will be the final authority,
- all sanctions pronounced by the FITE or by one of its members have to be acknowledged and applied by all the members,
- no regulations contained in the statutes authorise the FITE to intervene in equestrian matters or other matters which concern the national jurisdiction of the Members. The Members are not oblige to submit those matters to the FITE for conciliation.

CHAPTER II - AFFILIATIONS

Article 3

The NETO's which are agree with the same values and goals and accept the obligations contained in the statutes, and in the FITE's general and specific regulations can become affiliated to the FITE The NETO's must have a national scope, in geographical terms and also have to look after all different tendencies and forms of equestrian tourism. They must have an independent organisation in terms of both administration and finance. The FITE will only be able to accept one NETO per country as a member.

However, FITE could accept membership of another organisation when no NETO is established in the country concerned. This membership will immediately terminate once a NETO would be in the country concerned. It will have the status of associate member. As such, it may participate in the General Assembly of the FITE and meetings to which he will be invited but have not the right to vote. Associate member benefits from a reduced membership amount.

Article 4

The membership application must be forwarded in writing to the secretary of the FITE and have to be signed by the NETO's president.

The following information must be included in the application:

- the full designation of the NETO, the address, the telephone number, email, website of the registered office,
- the full name and address of the president and the secretariat,
- a copy of its statutes and regulations, in French or/and in English,
- proof concerning the regular equestrian activity of the NETO,
- an agreement to pay the due amounts as per the general regulations.

The membership application is submitted to the Board of directors who can temporary accept the application if convinced that the NETO is capable of fulfilling its obligations at national and international level. The NETO's temporary affiliation must be ratified at the following general assembly meeting. Once the membership ratified, the NETO becomes a FITE's Member (designated by "Member" at the present statutes).

Article 5

The general assembly can suspend for a period of time a Member that violates the statutes or the general or the specific regulations of the FITE

Article 6

The general assembly can expel any Member which persistently violates the principles included in the present statutes.

CHAPTER III - COMPOSITION

Article 7

The FITE comprises the Members.

CHAPTER IV - THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 8

The general assembly comprises delegates of all Members. Members can be represented by two delegates. One of the delegates must be the president-in-office of the NETO The other delegate is duly mandated in writing. Only the NETO's president or the mandated delegate as a right to vote.

Each member advises the secretary at least 30 days prior to the date of the general assembly, of the delegate's names. In the case where a NETO's president is not able to attend the general assembly, another delegate could replace him as long as advises the secretary 24 hours prior to the general assembly. The delegate designated as the replacement will have to justify their legitimacy to the secretary before attending the meeting.

Article 9

The functions and powers of the general assembly, which is the FITE supreme authority, are the following:

- to affiliate new Members,
- to suspend or exclude a Member,
- to arbitrate the matters submitted by the Board of directors,
- to exercise the disciplinary powers indicated in Chapter IX,

- to be the last decisional authority in the matters submitted to it and to take decisions in appeals against the Board of directors' decisions,
- to elect the president, the vice-presidents, the secretary, the treasurer and the Board of directors' members,
- to designate the scrutineers as proposed by the president,
- to approve the affiliation fee, the annual fee and other dues for the following year as proposed by the Board of directors,
- to receive, examine and approve the reports and proposals presented by the Board of directors,
- to receive, examine and approve the annual report of the secretary, the annual report of the treasurer, the budget and the reports of the commissioners responsible for the accounts,
- to approve the general regulations and the internal regulations,
- to approve the modifications to be made to the statutes and the general regulations and to authorise their publication,
- to discharge by a special vote the Board of directors and the commissioners responsible for the accounts,
- to deliberate on any questions brought up at the general assembly by the delegates.

Article 10

Each Member have only one vote.

A secret vote, by writing, is mandatory for all the elections, affiliations and disciplinary matters. The vote regarding all the other matters is cast by a show of hands, unless 25% of the delegates ask for a secret vote by writing. No vote can be cast by mail (for the vote to elect the Board of directors' members, refer to article 16).

For the vote concerning affiliations, the absolute majority of members present or represented is required for the application to be accepted.

The general assembly's decisions concerning modifications to be made to the statutes must be taken by a majority of two thirds of the votes cast by the Members present and represented.

The decisions concerning matters other than those specified above and included in the agenda, must be taken by a simple majority of the votes cast. In case of a split vote, the president will have the deciding vote.

Decisions concerning matters not included in the agenda and which can be the subject of an appropriate general assembly decision (article 14, 3 and 4) must be taken by a simple majority of the votes cast. In the case of a split vote, the president has the deciding vote.

Article 11

A general assembly is held annually. Special meetings can be convened if the circumstances so require.

Another statutory or extraordinary assembly can be called:

- on the president's request ,
- on the Board of directors' demand,
- on the demand of at least one quarter of Members.

The date and the time of the statutory or extraordinary assemblies are decided by the president with the Board of directors' agreement.

Article 12

Notification for a general assembly must be sent, by mail or email, by the secretary to all the members at least 60 days prior to the date scheduled for that assembly.

Article 13

The president presides over the general assembly. In the case where the president is unable to attend, the first vice-president presides over the general assembly and in the case where the first vice-president is unable to attend the second vice-president presides over the general assembly. In the case where none of the above people are able to attend, the general assembly will elect a member of the Board of directors to preside over the general assembly.

Article 14

All matters that the Members wishes to discuss or approve at an annual general meeting must be forwarded to the secretary no later than 90 days before the date of the general assembly, in order that the agenda can be sent to the other Members within a reasonable timeframe and to give the Board of directors the possibility of studying them. Notification must be made concerning special measures taken relative to extraordinary meetings.

The secretary must send the agenda of the meeting and all the documents regarding that meeting by mail or email to each Member at least one month prior to the meeting. Only the matters listed on the agenda can be decided on during a meeting. Those that have been submitted late or those that are given verbally during a meeting can be discussed, but cannot be approved until the Members' delegates have had the chance of discussing the matter. These matters will be included in the agenda of the next meeting.

The secretary's report, the financial situation and the budget established by the treasurer will be forwarded by mail or email 30 days prior to the date of the annual meeting.

Article 15

Reports of all meetings are drafted. The president and the secretary must sign all the reports. The adopted proposals which figure in the reports have legal authority in the same way as the statutes and the general and specific regulations. Copies of those reports must be forwarded to the Members as soon as possible after each meeting and at the latest two months after the meeting.

The members must enforce the decisions reported in the reports, by the 1st of September following the meeting or the date set by the general assembly.

The Board of directors' including the duration of their mandate, must figure at the beginning of the general assembly's agenda. Also listed are the name and address of the president, the secretary and treasurer along with the duration of their mandate.

CHAPTER V - THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Article 16

The general assembly elects, by secret vote, a Bureau which is composed of 5 to 13 members.

Can be elected to the Board of directors, the people duly mandated by a Member of the general assembly, able to read and express themselves fluently in French or English. Members proposing candidates for the Board of directors will have to certify in writing that their candidates do have that skill and at the same time they will have to confirm the experience and know how of their candidates concerning Equestrian Tourism.

Only one candidacy by nation can be presented at the Board of directors.

All the outgoing members of the Board of directors are re-eligible on condition to be duly mandated by a Member.

All applications must be forwarded in writing to the secretary by the 1st of January before the general assembly, in order for the names and qualifications of each candidate to be communicated to the members at the same time as the general assembly's agenda. All applications will be examined immediately before the general assembly by the Board of directors who will decide which applications are eligible as per the present statutes.

Only eligibles candidates will be submitted to the general assembly. The delegates at the general assembly will indicate on the list the candidates they wish to elect. To be elected, a candidate must obtain a majority of votes (that is half of the votes cast plus one) in the first round of voting or relative majority in the second round.

The mandate of each Board of directors member begins at the end of the general assembly in which he is elected and for a period of four years (4 exercises) unless they retire from their functions for any reason at all or their mandate is revoked by the Member who has supported their membership. The vacant seats on the Board of directors are replaced during the general assembly following the announcement of the vacancy on the condition that enough time remains so that the applications can be forwarded to the secretary by the 1st of January.

In case of a vacancy in the Board of directors, his successor is elected for the reminder of the current term of office.

The successor is elected as mentioned in the above procedures and it is not mandatory that he is chosen from the NETO as the outgoing member.

All the functions of the Board of directors are honorary and cannot be remunerated. The members may receive travelling expenses when they attend the Board of office meetings or when they officially represent the FITE

Article 17

The Board of directors is the authority responsible for the FITE's administration and management. It can nominate former members of the Board of director as honorary members. It can nominate as former delegates honorary delegates for services rendered to the FITE

In case of emergency situations, recognised as such by the Bureau, the president, the vice-president(s) and the secretary, the Board of directors has the power to take a decision in the name of the general assembly, a decision that will have to be approved during the following general assembly.

The Board of directors chooses the candidates for the post of vice-president(s), secretary, treasurer within its members, and will submit them for agreement at the general assembly.

The Board of directors examines the applications presented to it for the post concerning the Board of directors' members and submits the names of the qualified candidates to the general assembly which in turn proceeds with the election. The president cannot vote during the election of the Board of directors's members. He can only inform the general assembly of the qualifications of each candidate.

The Board of directors examines the NETO's application concerning its affiliation and, if in its opinion, it is convinced that the NETO is able to be affiliated, it submits the application to the general assembly which in turn proceeds to vote.

The Board of directors applies the disciplinary actions that are in his power as per Chapter IX.

The Board of directors examines and approves if necessary any sanction imposed by a Member within its jurisdiction and that can be of interest to other Members. The secretary will bring this sanction to the attention of all other Members.

The Board of directors appoints, if necessary, the commission and subcommission president and members.

The Board of directors appoints, if necessary, the disciplinary and arbitrary commissions' president and members.

The Board of directors co-ordinates the calendar for the international activities and submits it to the general assembly for approval.

Article 18

Each Board of directors member has only one vote during a Board of directors meeting. All votes are made by a show of hands unless a member demands a secret vote. The decisions are taken by a majority of the votes cast. In case of a split vote, the president's has the deciding vote. The vote concerning application for the post of president, the vice-presidents, the secretary, the treasurer or the secretary treasurer is made by secret vote.

Article 19

At least a Board of directors' meeting must be held annually before the annual general assembly. Special meetings can be held if the circumstances so require. A special meeting can be called at the

president's demand and at least four members of the Board of directors' members. The date, hour and place of the Board of directors' special meeting are decided by the president. The notification for that meeting is forwarded by the secretary by mail or email, to all the Board of directors' members at the same time as the agenda, 30 days prior to the meeting.

Article 20

In order for the Board of directors to deliberate legitimately, the presence of the majority of members including 2 members representing the president, the vice-president, the secretary or the treasurer, is mandatory.

It is recognized that the Board of Directors can be accessed by email with no physical meeting. The arrangements for convening, decision and report are identical.

Article 21

The president (or in his absence or on his request a vice-president) presides all the Board of directors' meetings. In the case of the president and the two vice-presidents being absent, the presidency is taken over by the secretary.

Article 22

All matters to be submitted at a Board of directors meeting must be forwarded to the secretary at least 5 weeks prior to the meeting. The secretary forwards a copy of the agenda and all the documents concerning the meeting to each Board of directors' member at least one month prior to the meeting.

Article 23

Report of all the Board of directors' meeting must be drafted. A copy of the report is forwarded as soon as possible to each Board of directors' member and at the latest 30 days after the meeting.

CHAPTER VI - SUBSIDIARY COMMISSIONS

Article 24

The Board of directors can nominate subsidiary commissions with a definite mission. It fixes the deadline for the commission to submit its report. The president and the members are designated by the Board of directors.

The Board of directors can nominate an investigation committee which is composed of a maximum of 3 members and which is in charge of examining the complaints concerning either the judge's attitude, acts or decisions or those of the technical delegates, the team leaders, riders etc. or any other person officially accredited during all international events organised under the FITE's patronage. That commission must report to the Board of directors who will decide, if needed, the actions to take. The Board of directors can choose the members of each commission without a limit in numbers, except for the disciplinary commission (see article 38). The commissions must comprise at least 3 members with a maximum of 5 including the president. If a Board of directors member is part of a commission he automatically presides it.

Each commission has the total liberty to work as it pleases within the limits of its competency. It identifies the member who will draft the report to be presented to the Board of directors. The reports should be in writing unless it was specified that they should be made verbally.

The reports must be submitted at a predetermined date. That date identifies the end of the mandate for the commission, independently of whether the report was submitted or not. In an exceptional case the president and the secretary can give to the commission a limited extension to its mandate.

The Board of directors is the only one empowered to render a decision on any report presented by a commission, and, if necessary to submit the proposals to the general assembly as per the statutes. The secretariat is at the disposition of any commission to help it in any way possible in the execution of its mission.

CHAPTER VII – PRESIDENCY AND BUREAU

Article 25

The FITE's president is the FITE's principal authority. The president is at the same time the president of the general assembly and the Board of directors at all the meetings where he can be present.

Article 26

The president (or at his demand or absence, the secretary) represents the FITE in legal matters and in the proceedings where he can be present.

Article 27

Presidential candidates must meet the same condition of eligibility than the administrators (article 16).

The general assembly elects the president by a two-round first-past-the-post system. The candidate who has obtained a majority of votes in the first round of voting or relative majority in the second round is elected.

His mandate covers 4 years and begins at the end of the general assembly in which he is elected. It finishes necessarily after the general assembly will be held after the summer Olympics Games.

In case of a vacancy, the secretary shall temporarily exercise the functions of the president until the next general assembly which will elect a president as mentioned in the above procedures. The successor is elected for the remainder of the current term of office.

Article 28

A Bureau comprising of the president, the secretary, the vice-president(s) and the treasurer shall be duly formed by decision of the Board of directors.

The Bureau is in charge of following the executions of the works of the Board of directors and reporting the progress to the Board of directors. The Bureau is a creative force for the Board of directors.

The president-delegate and the technical delegate can assist to the Bureau at the invitation of the president. They have an advisory vote.

CHAPTER VIII - THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Article 29

Are selected from inside the Board of directors :

- a secretary,
- a vice-president at least,
- a treasurer.

Article 30

Every function is filled in the order indicated in the article 29 in a two-round first-past-the-post system. The candidate who has obtained a majority of votes in the first round of voting or relative majority in the second round is elected.

Article 31

The vice-president(s) rank immediately after the president and the secretary as administrator of the FITE.

The president-delegate, the secretary, a vice-president, the treasurer, and more broadly any member of the Boards of director can officially represent the FITE at the request of the president.

Article 32

The president can propose the nomination of a president-delegate at the general assembly. At the request of the president, he will represent the FITE on all occasions. Similarly, the president can, under its control, give him specific missions connected to the FITE's objectives. The president-delegate takes part in the meetings of the Board of directors and the assembly general but he cannot take part in the voting.

Article 33

The president proposes the nomination of technical delegate. He is in charge of the follow-up of FITE's sport disciplines and ensures the respect of the international regulations during FITE's events. The president may also propose the appointment of an alternate technical delegate. Its role is to replace the technical delegate in case of unavailability of the latter.

Article 34

- The secretary is in charge of the FITE's administration. He is in charge of having the statutes and the FITE's general and specific regulations observed and of bringing all infractions to the attention of the Board of directors administrators.
- The secretary is given the responsibility of preparing and presenting the agenda at the general assemblies and the Board of directors' meetings: preparing and publishing the official bulletin, the newsletter and all other information; and dealing with all official correspondence.

- In the President's absence, the secretary represents the FITE in legal matters and in civil proceedings.
- The secretary prepares and submits his report on the FITE's general administration to the general annual assembly.
- The secretary may be delegated by the president to officially represent the FITE in certain international activities in order to study the organisation or its achievements, or to attend international congresses on behalf of the FITE's. In these cases his travelling and accommodation expenses may be paid by the FITE

Article 35

The treasurer's functions may be cumulated with those of the secretary. The treasurer is in charge of membership, fees and all amounts due to the FITE He is responsible for keeping the books and is responsible for all expenses.

The treasurer presents the verified accounts, his report concerning the financial situation and the budget at one of the Board of directors' meetings and at the annual general assembly.

The treasurer has to inform the Board of directors of all changes that he proposes concerning the initial affiliation fee, membership fees and all other charges.

Article 36

On the president's proposal, the general assembly elects two scrutineers from the delegates, for the duration of the general assembly. The scrutineers must see to the validity of the notification, proxies, mandates and votes. The scrutineers must see that all the delegates are duly accredited and also check which delegates have the right to vote for his NETO.

Article 37

The FITE's head office must always be in a country in which a NETO is a member of the FITE. The address is determined by the Board of directors.

CHAPTER IX - DISCIPLINARY POWERS

Article 38

The disciplinary commission is composed of 5 members that must be either members of the Board of directors or members presented by their NETO.

At least one of the members must be chosen between the president, the vice-presidents and the secretary to exercise the president's function. At least three members must be present at each meeting. The names of the disciplinary commission's members are submitted to the general assembly. Their mandate expires at the next general assembly.

In order to prevent any delay in examining disciplinary matters, the secretary calls the commission within two weeks of the date in which an urgent matter as been submitted to him. The disciplinary

commission hears the two parties and decides on behalf of the Board of directors and general assembly, on all the cases brought to its attention. Those decisions must be ratified by the Board of directors or by the general assembly at their next meeting.

Article 39

On the disciplinary commission's advice the Board of directors could impose the following sanctions on a NETO:

- a warning,
- a maximum fine of 250 euros.

On the disciplinary commission's advice the general assembly could impose the following sanctions on a NETO:

- a temporary suspension,
- the exclusion of the NETO for a period of at least five years.

The suspended or excluded member cannot send delegates at the general assembly nor at the commission's meetings for the duration of the sanction.

Article 40

Before a sanction is adopted, the person or the organization designated will be invited to provide his explanations in writing, but preferably in person. The cases submitted to the Board of directors or at the general assembly by the disciplinary commission will be adopted by secret vote and by a majority of the votes cast. The decision will be communicated by registered letter to NETO and indicated in the general assembly's report.

Article 41

The sanctions imposed on the NETO must be communicated to the secretary for them to be examined by the disciplinary commission and, eventually for confirmation, by the Board of directors or the general assembly. The sanctions in which a NETO has to take action must be communicated to them as quickly as possible and by registered letter.

CHAPTER XI - VARIOUS INSTRUCTIONS

Article 42

French and English are the official languages of the FITE. The official documents, the report, the agenda and other publications are drafted if necessary in both languages. Only the French version shall be deemed as authentic.

There must be simultaneous translation in French and English at all the general assembly and Board of directors meetings if one of the members attending the meeting asks for it.

Delegates wishing to use another language must be accompanied by one or two translators able to translate the language into French and English. Sufficient instructions must be given to the secretary regarding this matter for him to take the necessary measures. The cost of employing the translators and the equipment needed will be at the expense of the members concerned.

Article 43

The social and accounting year begins on the 1st of September and ends on the 31st of August.

Article 44

The expenses are determined by the general assembly as per the treasurer's proposal. An entry fee is established when a new Member becomes affiliated.

The membership fees and all other charges are due at the beginning of the year. Any member that has not paid its dues cannot attend or be represented at the annual general assembly. Any Member that has not paid its membership fee or any other charges due for the 1st of November will receive, by registered letter, a reminder and if necessary a second reminder by registered letter on the 1st of January.

Article 44

The FITE's dissolution can only be pronounced by an extraordinary general assembly specifically called for this matter. To be valid it has to have 3/4 of the Members present or represented. The dissolution shall be decided by a majority of 3/4 of the votes cast.