



STATUTES OF THE EUROPEAN KENDO FEDERATION

AS APPROVED AND ADAPTED BY THE EKF GENERAL ASSEMBLIES HELD IN MALMÖ (24-04-87), AMSTERDAM (25-03-89), TORONTO (26-06-91), BARCELONA (16-04-92), TURKU (16-04-93), PARIS (06-04-94), GLASGOW (20-04-95), KYOTO (25-03-97), BASEL (09-04-98), SANTA CLARA (22-03-2000), BOLOGNA (12-04-2001), NANTES (18-04-2002), GLASGOW (02-07-2003), BUDAPEST (22-04-2004), BERN (14-04-2005), BRUSSELS (10-02-2006), LISBON (16-04-2007) & HELSINKI (20-03-2008).

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ARTICLE 01: NAME, OBJECT.

01. The name of the organization shall be EUROPEAN KENDO FEDERATION (EKF).

02. The purpose of the Federation shall be to foster, to develop and to promote the practice and spirit of Kendo and the related martial arts such as Iaido, Jodo, Naginata-do, along the traditional lines, by means of organizing seminars, grading examinations, judge seminars, championships, etc. The EKF will also try to promote the martial arts in countries which aren't organized yet. Of course, it will always try to strengthen the bonds of friendship among its Members.

03. The EKF shall be an amateur sport organization, irrespective of neither racial, political nor religious opinions of its members.

ARTICLE 02: GENERAL REGULATIONS.

01. The EKF is an organization which raises its own funds in order to be self-supporting. It isn't meant to make any profits.

02. The constitutional organs are:

- The General Assembly (G.A.), consisting of delegates chosen and sent by each member country, assembling each year on the occasion of the European or World Championships (see Article 05).

- The Board of Officers (B.O.), consisting of the President, the Vice-President, the Treasurer, the Secretary-General and the Technical Director, meeting when necessary (see Article 06).

- The Auditor (see Article 09).

03. The seat of the EKF will be at the home of the President. All correspondence will be sent to the Secretary's office, who distributes copies to the other members of the B.O.

04. The official language of the Federation shall be English. The technical terms can be put in Japanese using the Hepburn Rōmaji System.



ARTICLE 03: MEMBERSHIP.

01. Full membership of the EKF shall be open to nationally recognized Kendo organizations of countries within Europe as geographically defined.

Europe is bound to the north by the Arctic Ocean, to the west by the Atlantic Ocean, to the south by the Mediterranean Sea, to the southeast by the Caucasus Mountains < thus including Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia > and the Black Sea and the waterways connecting the Black Sea to the Mediterranean. To the east, Europe is divided from Asia by the water divide of the Ural Mountains, the Ural river, and by the Caspian Sea.

This delimitation does not affect existing memberships to the EKF, as long as they are not able to join a proper regional federation.

02. Other Countries within the European Zone, as defined by the FIK, may join the EKF as Affiliated Members.

03. All these memberships must be applied for in a letter, including the constitution text or the statutes of the applicant organization (see point 04.b hereunder) and a letter of support by two Member Countries, before being ratified by the EKF General Assembly.

04. Applicant members shall have to agree to abide by the present Statutes and the rules of the Federation.

Upon acceptance, the EKF G.A. shall initially recognize them as Provisional Members for a term of two (2) years. After this the G.A. decides, taking into consideration its conduct and participation in EKF activities, either to refuse membership on certain grounds of which the applicant must be informed, to extend the provisional membership for another year or to accept the Provisional Member as a full member.

Except as otherwise stated (see Articles 05.05., on voting rights, and 04.02., membership fee), Provisional and Affiliated Members do have the same rights and duties as other members.

05. Only one (1) organization per country shall be recognized.

If there are two affiliation demands from the same country, or if there is a new application opposing an existing Member Country, the decision will be taken



according to the following standards:

- a. Number of practicing members;
- b. Existence of Democratic Statutes (in English or joined by an official translation), including regulations on a periodic General Assembly followed by approved Minutes;
- c. Financial Status;
- d. Representativity for the Nation concerned, i.e. the number of clubs, their distribution around the country and the approval by official or governmental bodies;
- e. List of the Members of the Board and of the Board of Officers, together with the grade and practice records of these decisive persons;
- f. The EKF Grading Register;
- g. National event calendar;
- h. Payment of EKF Membership Fee, if appropriate;
- i. Representation in European events, if any;
- j. Nationality of the practitioners;
- k. Foundation date.

The order of these 11 points isn't of any importance.

ARTICLE 04: SUBSCRIPTIONS.

01. A member country shall have no rights to, privileges of nor access to EKF-facilities unless the yearly subscription has been paid.

02. The value of the annual subscription fee shall be determined by the majority of the EKF General Assembly upon consideration of a provisional budget made by the Treasurer.

Provisional Members only pay half of the regular subscription fee, starting in the calendar year in which they receive this status.

03. All subscriptions are to be paid into the bank account of the EKF at the invitation of the Treasurer.

04. All credits are to be provided by annual membership fees, Dan Grading fees for subscription and registration, gifts, or by occasional sponsorship.

In any case the financial and moral independence of the Federation must remain the first goal.



05. The financial year will coincide with the calendar year.

06. The presentation of the financial report will be put on the Agenda of each General Assembly.

ARTICLE 05: GENERAL ASSEMBLY (G.A.).

01. The General Assembly is the highest authority within the EKF.

02. An EKF General Assembly must be held at least once a year, preferably at the time of the European or World Kendo Championships. The Member Countries must be invited to this Assembly at least three (3) months in advance.

03. The G.A. shall be composed of no more than two (2) representatives delegated by each Member Country, and by the members of the Board of Officers. Only countries that have paid their contributions and have sent their representative(s) are allowed to vote. The G.A. will stay effective even when a Member Country doesn't attend, with or without giving power of proxy.

04. Each member Country shall have one (1) vote in the Assembly. If no majority is reached the President will ask for a new discussion or vote.

05. Provisional members do not have a vote in the Assembly. Their nominated observers may express only their opinions to the General Assembly. They will not constitute to the quorum as per Articles. 05.08, 10.05, 12 & 13.

06. In case it is judged appropriate by the Board of Officers other observers may be invited to the Assembly. They shall have no voting powers.

07. The agenda to be discussed must be in the possession of each representative at least one month before the actual meeting.

08. The General Assembly shall not be valid unless at least one third (1/3) of the current Member Countries are represented.

09. All voting rounds will be decided upon by simple majority, except for items such as expulsion and suspension of Member Countries and changing the present Statutes. These exceptions are mentioned further in the text in Articles 10, 12 and 13.



10. If the Board of Officers, or at least three Member Countries, decides that circumstances require urgent action, an Extraordinary General Assembly may be called together. This Assembly will be run according to the rules stated above.

ARTICLE 06: BOARD OF OFFICERS (B.O.).

01. There shall be five (5) Officers of the European Kendo Federation: the President, the Vice-President, the Treasurer, the Secretary-General and the Technical Director.

02. The election of Officers shall ‹ beside the general rules of these Statutes › follow the following procedure:

a. Only persons nominated by a Member Country and holding a Dan in and practicing one of the disciplines mentioned in Article 01.02. of these Statutes can be candidates for an office.

b. Proposals for persons to be elected as officers including the persons holding already an office shall be notified by the Member Countries or in case of the Officers, by themselves, to the Secretary General not later than two months prior to the meeting of

the G.A. in order to allow the Secretary-General to include the proposals in the agenda (Article 05.07). If no proposals have been filed in time and if at least one third (1/3) of the representatives present agrees, further persons may be nominated. The proposals shall include personal information on and the motivation of the candidate and specify for which office the person is nominated.

c. The vote will take place by secret ballot. The President may turn over the chair of the G.A. only for the voting procedure to the most senior (by age) representative of a Member Country present. If the candidates choose so, they may leave the G.A. during the voting procedure. The person taking the chair shall chair and supervise the voting procedure and shall keep minutes of the conduct and the results of the election. He may choose suitable persons to assist him in the procedure from the present representatives.

d. After the vote is completed, the person chairing the procedure shall announce the results and ask the persons elected if they accept the respective offices. After a new BO has been elected, the elected President shall take over the chair and continue the agenda of the G.A.

e. Each Officer shall be elected for a term of three years and may be re-



elected.

03. All Officers may be elected by a simple majority of the General Assembly.

04. The **duties of the President** are the following:

- a. He acts as an Executive Officer for the Federation;
- b. He takes the chair at all meetings of the EKF;
- c. He is responsible for the running, order and attention to business at all meetings of the EKF;
- d. He instructs the Secretary-General on measures to be taken resulting from decisions taken at meetings;
- e. He is responsible for the overall liaison within the EKF in co-operation with the Secretary-General;
- f. He acts as chairman at all events organized by the EKF;
- g. He directs the activities of the other officers, according to the policy set up by the General Assembly;
- h. He is responsible for submitting to the EKF General Assembly for ratification any technical information or criterion supplied to him by the Technical Director.

05. The **duties of the Vice-President** are the following:

- a. He will represent the President in his absence, assist him as necessary and take over the duties mentioned above under Article 06.04. in that case;
- b. He will consider all possibilities of modernization, especially if they have repercussions on the Statutes;
- c. Hence he will draw the Agenda and Minutes of B.O. meetings and keep a register of the decisions taken there;
- d. He is responsible for the proper election procedures.

06. The **duties of the Treasurer** are the following:



- a. He is responsible for collecting the annual subscription fees and for informing the B.O. by maintaining and sending up-to-date lists of Member Countries, in an appropriate register;
- b. He has the duty to keep a suitable and adequate account of all funds, gifts and other properties received and disposed of by the Federation;
- c. He is responsible for covering expenses of the B.O. and signs for other payments as duly authorized;
- d. He must provide the President with an accurate account of the Federations¹ bookkeeping within twenty-one (21) days, if so requested;
- e. He is responsible for ensuring that all debts incurred by the Federation are paid, and to inform the President, in the event of the debts being greater than the funds, about the necessity of money or otherwise of declaring the Federation bankrupt;
- f. He is responsible, in the event of the Federation being dissolved, for ensuring the disposal of funds and property of the Federation, in accordance with Article 11 of the present Statutes;
- g. He must prepare the budget before and present it for a vote at each G.A.
- h. He has the duty to hand over all funds, papers and documents belonging to the Federation at the expiry of his term of office.

07. The **duties of the Secretary-General** are the following:

- a. He is responsible for the day-to-day running of the EKF, under the direction of the President;
- b. He is responsible for receiving and replying to all correspondence related to the business of the Federation, except for the Treasury;
- c. He is responsible for the liaison between the Member Countries;
- d. He is responsible for keeping a true and faithful record of all correspondence received and sent, and of all actions taken;



- e. He is responsible for notifying all Member Countries of the dates of the G.A.'s. Notification must be sent not less than three (3) months before the actual date of this G.A.;
- f. He is responsible for providing an agenda for all G.A.'s not less than one month before the actual date. Agenda items may be submitted by any Member Country, not less than two months before the G.A.;
- g. He is responsible for advising the President on matters of Statutory detail and other specific information. The President shall be responsible for the application of this information;
- h. He is responsible for notifying all Member Countries of all decisions taken at their G.A.'s and for ensuring that these decisions are followed-up and duly implemented;
- i. He is responsible for making the minutes of all EKF G.A.'s and for their circulation to all Member Countries;
- j. He is responsible for maintaining the European Kendo Federation Dan Grading Register;
- k. He has the duty to hand over all papers and documents relating to the Federation at the expiry of his term of office.

08. The **duties of the Technical Director** are the following:

- a. The TD is responsible for the application of the decisions on technical matters voted upon by the G.A.;
- b. The TD will consider the proposals made on technical matters by any member country through its President or an authorized correspondent.
- c. The TD will collect and formulate all technical proposals to be put to the G.A. for voting.
- d. He may act as one of the representatives of the EKF during FIK Assemblies;
- e. He is responsible for the written instruction manual about the European Championships and for the keeping it up-to-date;



- f. He is responsible for ensuring that Juries at every Dan grading examination are in compliance with the EKF rules.
- g. The TD will see to it that the proper spirit is maintained during practice of the martial arts mentioned in Article 01;
- h. he checks that the proper standards are maintained for international refereeing.

ARTICLE 07: SENIOR COUNCILOR GROUP.

01. In order to advise the G.A. or the B.O. on matters of general interest that need reflection and experience, or to work out written proposals for the G.A., the B.O. may consult an EKF Senior Councilor Group (S.C.G.).

02. The EKF President will be ready to give or receive proposals for nominations to this S.C.G. from the member countries.

03. Condition for admittance are:

- having ended all official mandates in the board of the member countries and the international organizations at the time of the G.A.;
- an outstanding reputation within EKF;
- a long service in their national organization or the EKF, having in this way helped to develop one of the practiced disciplines.

04. The nominations will be treated by the EKF G.A. in the absence of the candidates. After being approved, the names will be mentioned on the "List of senior councilors", to be printed in the EKF Newsletter.

05. Besides the tasks mentioned under 01 above, the members of this S.C.G. will have the following privileges:

- they may be present during the G.A. and can be consulted on that occasion;
- will be invited to the EKF dinner afterwards;
- will be given a seat of honor during European Championships.



ARTICLE 08: GRADINGS AND GRADING REGISTER.

01. Any individual member, listed on an subscription form signed by the President of his organization or presenting a written authorization by this President, shall be free to enter grading examinations organized by any other Member Country or the EKF, providing that the grading examination is properly organized in accordance with the rules and regulations of the International Kendo Federation, and checked by the Technical Director.

02. As mentioned in Article 06, subdivision 7, an European Kendo Federation Grading Register¹ will be maintained by the Secretary-General. All results of grading examinations shall be communicated to his address.

He will do the necessary to communicate these results to the FIK.

03. Before each examination each member country shall check their own or the EKF Grading Register and confirm that the applicant's former grades are officially listed and the normal delays between grades have been adhered to.

04. Each Member Country shall recognize the grades awarded by fellow members. European Kendo Profile Certificates can also serve as proof. If presented after a successful grading, they will be signed, if possible immediately, by the EKF Technical Director or a person indicated by him.

05. When an individual member wants to change the nationality of his membership, the second Member Country will check with the first if there are any objections.

06. The President of an official Member may delegate his or her authority to organize Dan Grading Examinations to the EKF President.

ARTICLE 09: AUDITOR.

01. The Auditor shall also be elected for a term of three years by and during one of the General Assemblies.

02. His duty is to check the yearly accounts made by the Treasurer and to report his opinion to the G.A.



ARTICLE 10: EXPULSION AND SUSPENSION OF MEMBERS AND CENSURE OF OFFICERS.

01. Member Countries can be expelled or suspended by the G.A.

02. In the case of any individual Member Country being in the opinion of the B.O. injurious to the character and interests of the Federation, the G.A. shall, upon motion by the B.O. be empowered to expel that country or suspend the membership of that country, in particular, if a member Country is in material breach of this Statutes or of traditional moral standards. The B.O. shall give reasonable opportunity to the Member Country to furnish an explanation either verbally or in writing before taking any action.

03. Notice in writing of such action must be given to that Member Country and must be notified to all Member Countries at least two month prior to the G.A. or Ex. G.A. addressing the topic. The final decision will be made at that G.A.

04. The expelled or suspended Member Country shall cease to be entitled to the rights and privileges of the EKF from the date of the G.A. deciding thereon. All Dan-Grades of practitioners of that Member Country will be removed from the EKF Grading Register and will no longer be recognized (Article 08.04), unless registered with another or a new member organization.

Expulsion is permanent.

A decision on the suspension of membership shall include the duration of such measure. During a suspension, the practitioners of that Member Country do not have either the right to participate in official international manifestations or in Dan grading examinations.

05. All decisions concerning expulsions and suspensions of membership of Member Countries can only be passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of members present at an G.A. If a country is not represented at the G.A. then that Countries shall be notified in writing of the of decision that has been taken.

06. Officers of the Federation may be officially criticized for failure to abide by the rules of the EKF's Statutes or for negligence in their duties and responsibilities.

This can be done by means of Motion of censure. If such a motion be made at a G.A. or Ex. G.A., it must have a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those members



present to be passed. In the case of a motion of censure being passed, the officer(s) concerned shall be removed from office and shall also be notified in writing of the reasons given for the motion. New Officer(s) shall be elected to complete the outgoing officer(s) term of tenancy.

ARTICLE 11: FIK RELATIONS.

01. The EKF unites Member Countries belonging to the European Zone as defined by the FIK.

02. The EKF asks the FIK to invite the EKF B.O. to its activities and events.

03. The President of the EKF will be proposed for the post of Vice-President of the International Kendo Federation (FIK) on the first occasion after his election.

In the same way, the EKF will propose:

- the EKF Treasurer for the function of FIK Auditor,
- the EKF Technical Director for member of the FIK Technical Committee,
- three Presidents of selected countries for the function of FIK Director.

All these candidatures are linked to the function of a person, regardless of his or her name.

ARTICLE 12: DISSOLUTION.

The dissolution of the European Kendo Federation is only possible if voted upon by its G.A. and can be passed by a three fourths (3/4) majority of the Member Countries represented.

All Members decide about the whereabouts of the disposals of funds and properties of the Federation.

ARTICLE 13: CHANGING THE STATUTES.

The present Statutes can be changed by a majority of two thirds (2/3) of its Members represented. These changes must be announced and explained in the agenda drawn for that Assembly.



The EKF Board of Officers:

Alain DUCARME
President

Hein ODINOT
Vice-President

Jean-Pierre RAICK
Technical Director

Dieter HAUCK
Treasurer

Raf BERNAERS
Secretary-General EKF