



European Hovercraft Federation Constitution

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ARTICLE 1 Formation

A non profit making organisation comprising member associations is set up under this constitution and shall be known as the:

EUROPEAN HOVERCRAFT FEDERATION (EHF)

The Federation is to be set up for an indefinite period.

ARTICLE 2 Aims

A The aims of the Federation are:

- a. to expand the potential use of hovercraft
- b. to encourage the construction of new prototype craft and scale models
- c. to promote the use of hovercraft for sport, competition and tourism
- d. to make appropriate useful contacts in the public and private sectors with a view to achieving the aims of the Federation
- e. to purchase such property and equipment as are deemed necessary to achieve such aims.

ARTICLE 3 Activities

A The activities of the Federation could include:

- a. holding periodic meetings
- b. encouraging member countries to organise hovercraft events
- c. publishing a bulletin
- d. organising courses and other events or initiatives relating to technical safety or development matters.

B The Federation will not permit any discussion or event of a political or sectarian nature.

ARTICLE 4 Membership

A Membership is open to any European hovercraft club, federation or association which is recognized as being the sole representative of its Country.

B A Country may only be represented by a single club, federation or association.

C Members will pay an Annual Membership Subscription, the amount of which will be decided at Governing Board meetings.

- D Any member country for which no national representatives have participated in an official EHF event (not including Governing Board Meetings) in the most recent two full calendar years of events will not be entitled to vote at a Governing Board meeting, except at the discretion of the Governing Board.

ARTICLE 5 Admission

- A Application for membership must be made to the Governing Board of the EHF who will consider applications once a year.
- B Whilst awaiting the decision applicants are entitled to participate in the activities of the EHF, with the exceptions of a General meeting.
- C Annual membership subscriptions are due upon acceptance of membership by the Governing Board.

ARTICLE 6 Termination of membership

- A Membership may be terminated by:
- a. resignation
 - b. expulsion by the Governing Board for non-payment of fees or other serious reason.
- B Termination of membership will not take place until the member Country has been invited to explain its case before the Governing Board, or a General meeting of the Federation.

ARTICLE 7 Financial Resources

- A The resources of the Federation will comprise:
- a. the total amount received from membership subscriptions
 - b. local or state grants or subsidies
 - c. sponsorship and donations
 - d. sale of goods
 - e. interest on investments.

ARTICLE 8 Language

- A The official language for all texts, publications or declarations will be English.

ARTICLE 9 Governing Board

- A The EHF will be Governed by a Governing Board (the Board) comprising two representatives nominated by each member Country. Each member Country shall have one vote on the Board.
- B The Board may co-opt experts or Officers to fulfil specific posts or initiatives. These co-opted members will not be eligible to vote unless they are the sole representative of their Country.
- C The Board may appoint sub-committees to undertake special areas of work. These committees will report their findings to the Board for official ratification.
- D The Board shall elect a group of Officers for a two year, renewable, period.
 - f. President - elected in even numbered years
 - g. Vice-President - elected in odd numbered years
 - h. Secretary - elected in even numbered years
 - i. Treasurer - elected in odd numbered years
- E The Officers can be elected from nominated or co-opted members. Officers will not have voting rights unless they also act as the sole representative of their National Body.
- F Should a position become vacant a replacement will be found by the Board. Replacements must be confirmed at the next board meeting. The term of office of members elected in this manner expires at the end of the term of the Officer they are replacing.

ARTICLE 10 Board Meetings

- A The Governing Board will be convened by the President at least once a year.
- B The Board meeting will be chaired by the President or in his place the Vice-President or a Member elected as an Acting Chairman.
- C The Board will be convened at the request of 25% of the membership.
- D The Secretary shall notify all Members of the date and place of the Meeting at least 4 weeks before it is due to take place. A draft agenda will be sent out with the notification.
- E On receipt of the notification, Members should notify the Secretary of any additional agenda items they wish to be included, together with a discussion paper.
- F Decision of the Board will be carried on the basis of a majority vote.
- G Should the voting be equal the President, or in his place the acting Chairman at the meeting, will have a casting vote. This will be in addition to any delegate vote they may hold.
- H A Country may appoint another member to act as Proxy, but this must be confirmed in writing directly to the Secretary, prior to the meeting.

- I Any Member Country which fails to send a representative to two consecutive Board meetings, without explanation, will be deemed to have resigned its membership.

ARTICLE 11 Head Office

- A The Board will decide on the Head Office of the EHF which will be located in one of its member Countries.

ARTICLE 12 Accounts

- A The funds of the Federation will be held in a Bank or Giro Account in the name of the EUROPEAN HOVERCRAFT FEDERATION. The Treasurer and one other Officer will be designated signatories.

ARTICLE 13 Internal regulations

- A The Board may draw up regulations designed to cover various matters which are not provided for in the Constitution, particularly matters relating to the internal administration of the EHF.

ARTICLE 14 General Open Meetings

- A A General Open Meeting of all Members of National bodies shall be held when the Governing Board feel it is necessary or requested by 60% of National Bodies who are fully paid up members of the EHF.
- B The Secretary will notify all Federation Members of the date and place of the Meeting at least 4 weeks before it is due to take place. A draft agenda will be sent out with the notification.
- C On receipt of the notification, Members should notify the Secretary of any additional agenda items they wish to be included, together with a discussion paper.
- D Agenda items only will be discussed at Open Meetings.

ARTICLE 15 Amendments to the Constitution

- A The Constitution of the EHF can be amended only at a Governing Board or General meeting.
- B Amendments to the Constitution require a 60% in favour vote.
- C Voting may only take place on one proposed amendment at a time.
- D Voting on proposed constitutional changes by member Countries is mandatory, either in person or by proxy. Each member Country shall have one vote.

ARTICLE 16 Administrative regulations

- A All members of the EHF must respect National legislation when in a host Country.
- B Members should inform the EHF Secretary of any changes to regulations within their Country.
- C The EHF may draw up its own rules in respect of matters relating to personal safety and property particularly concerning competition.

ARTICLE 17 External Affairs

- A The EHF is the sole representative of the clubs, federations and associations of member Countries in relationship to European sporting hovercraft matters.
- B The Federation may decide to delegate such dealings and appoint representatives. Representatives must report directly back to the Governing Board of the EHF.

ARTICLE 18 Dissolution of the EHF

- A The EHF shall be dissolved on a 60% vote at a General meeting. The Governing Board will appoint Receivers to distribute assets equally to fully paid up National Bodies.
- B Voting on the dissolution of the EHF by member Countries is mandatory, either in person or by proxy. Each member Country shall have one vote.