

CONSTITUTION of ECAHO

I. GENERAL REGULATIONS

Art. 1 Name and Legal Seat

- 1.1 Under the name “European Conference of Arab Horse Organizations” (ECAHO) there exists an association (Verein), pursuant to Art. 60 et seq. of the Swiss Civil Code (Schweizerisches Zivilgesetzbuch).
- 1.2 The domicile of the association is in Switzerland, at an address nominated by the Executive Committee.

Art. 2 Objects

The objects of ECAHO are:

- 2.1 to encourage the breeding and improvement and welfare of Arab Horses in Europe and other Members' countries;
- 2.2 to take measures for the prevention of cruelty to horses in general and at ECAHO competitions in particular;
- 2.3 to encourage international competition in Europe and other Members' countries by the creation and enforcement of rules;
- 2.4 to maintain and promote public interest in Arab Horses in Europe and other Members' countries;
- 2.5 to encourage the promotion world-wide of Arab Horses bred in ECAHO Members' countries.

Art. 3 Definitions

- 3.1 The term “Arab Horse” as used in this Constitution shall mean: Any horse that is registered in a WAHO (World Arabian Horse Organisation) accepted studbook.
- 3.2 The term “Europe” shall mean the Member States of the Council of Europe.
- 3.3 The term “Permanent Official” shall mean all elected and/or appointed and approved members of the ECAHO recognized Committees, Commissions, and Subcommissions.
- 3.4 The term “Temporary Official” shall mean all other individuals nominated by ECAHO recognized Committees, Commissions, Subcommissions and by the organizers of affiliated ECAHO events.

II. MEMBERSHIP

Art. 4 The Members of ECAHO are

- a) Members (active members);
- b) Associate Members (passive members).

4.1 Members of ECAHO:

Any association, institution, society or other organisation, in Europe and in other countries, composed of or representing the breeders and/or owners of Arab Horses in its own country and recognised by ECAHO as the proper representative of its country. In countries with more than one ECAHO accepted organisation as representative, they shall together be considered as one Member. In this context, the expression “country” shall refer to an independent state recognized by the international community.

Any such organisation wishing to become a Member of ECAHO shall apply in writing to the Executive Secretary. Besides the statutes of such organisation, ECAHO may request further information.

Subsequently, the Executive Committee shall make a recommendation to the General Meeting of ECAHO for admission or not of the new Member. The admission of Members shall be the decision of the General Meeting of ECAHO. New Members acquire membership rights and duties as from seven days after the day of admission.

Members have the right to take part at the General Meeting, to bring forward agenda items for the General Meeting, and to exercise all other rights arising from this Constitution and from any rules, regulations and decisions of ECAHO.

Only officially nominated candidates of Members may be elected into ECAHO recognized Committees and Commissions.

All Full Members are required to organise a minimum of one show of C category or higher for two consecutive years in order to maintain Full Member status. Otherwise the Member will be reduced to an Associate Member. In case of force majeure this rule may be varied by decision of the General Meeting.

4.2 Associate Members of ECAHO:

Any association, institution, society or other organisation, in Europe and in other countries, composed of or representing the breeders and/or owners of Arab Horses in its own country and recognised by ECAHO as the proper representative of its country. In countries with more than one ECAHO accepted organisation as representative, they shall together be considered as one Associate Member.

Any such organisation wishing to become an Associate Member of ECAHO shall apply in writing to the Executive Secretary. Besides the statutes of such organisation, ECAHO may request further information.

Subsequently, the Executive Committee shall make a recommendation to the General Meeting of ECAHO for admission or not of the new Associate Member. The admission of Associate Members shall be the decision of the General Meeting. New Associate Members acquire the respective rights and duties as from seven days after the admission.

Each Associate Member shall be entitled to send to every General Meeting one observer. Associate Members shall have such rights and privileges as the General Meeting may from time to time determine. However they shall have no right to vote and to petition.

- 4.3 All Members, Associate Members and Permanent and Temporary Officials of ECAHO submit themselves to the Constitution, rules, regulations and decisions of ECAHO. All Members and Associate Members will further ensure compliance therewith by their own members.
- 4.4 Members and Associate Members are obliged to pay annual membership fees.
- 4.5 Violation of the above-mentioned obligations by any Member or Associate Member may lead to sanctions provided for in this Constitution and/or in other rules and regulations of ECAHO.

Art. 5 Resignation

Any Member or Associate Member may resign from ECAHO giving six months notice in writing to the Executive Secretary.

Art. 6 Suspension of Membership and Expulsion

- 6.1 The General Meeting is responsible for suspending a Member or an Associate Member. The Executive Committee may, however, suspend with immediate effect a Member or an Associate Member that seriously and/or repeatedly and/or continuously violates its obligations as a Member or an Associate Member. The suspension shall last until the next General Meeting, unless the Executive Committee has lifted it in the meantime. A suspension shall be confirmed at the next General Meeting. If it is not confirmed, the suspension is automatically lifted. A suspended Member or Associate Member shall lose its membership rights. Events already affiliated under ECAHO Rules may be held, but no further events will be affiliated.
- 6.2 The General Meeting may expel a Member or an Associate Member if:
- a) its conduct is prejudicial to the objects and/or interests of ECAHO;
 - b) it has made false or misleading communications to ECAHO;
 - c) it seriously and/or repeatedly and/or continuously violates the Constitution, rules, regulations and decisions of ECAHO.
- 6.3 The General Meeting shall have the right to readmit any suspended or expelled Member or Associate Member.

III. Organisation

Art. 7 The General Meeting

- 7.1 ECAHO shall hold an Ordinary General Meeting in every calendar year. The time and place shall be determined by the Executive Committee. The Members and Associate Members shall be informed of the place and the date of the General Meeting at least three months in advance.

Requests for agenda items must be sent by Members to the Executive Secretary in writing, together with a brief explanation, at least sixty days prior to the Ordinary General Meeting.

The formal convocation of the Ordinary General Meeting shall be made in writing (letter, fax or e-mail) at least thirty days before the date of the Ordinary General Meeting to such Member's or Associate Member's address as registered with the Executive Secretary. The formal convocation shall specify the date, time and place of the Ordinary General Meeting.

- 7.2 The Executive Committee may at any time and at its own discretion convene an Extraordinary General Meeting.
- 7.3 The Executive Committee shall convene an Extraordinary General Meeting within sixty days after receipt of a request for an Extraordinary General Meeting signed by at least five Members. Such request shall specify in writing the items for the agenda of the Meeting so requested and shall be sent to the Executive Secretary.
- 7.4 A resolution on items not duly announced may not be taken.
- 7.5 The President has the Chair at all General Meetings. Should he be unable to take the Chair, the Vice-President shall take the Chair. Should he be also unable to take the Chair, those members of the Executive Committee present at the meeting shall elect one of their number as Chairman for that Meeting.

Art. 8 Business of the General Meeting

The General Meeting has the following powers:

- a) declaration that the General Meeting has been convened and composed in compliance with the Constitution, taking notice of quorum, approval of the agenda, and appointment of at least one scrutineer;
- b) to approve the minutes of the preceding General Meeting;
- c) to receive a report of the President of ECAHO;
- d) to receive an annual audited statement of income and expenditure and a balance sheet for the previous year;
- e) to approve the financial statements;
- f) to approve the budget;
- g) to elect the President and Members of the Executive Committee from among the officially nominated candidates of the Members;
- h) to elect the Members of the Standing Disciplinary Committee (SDC) and the ECAHO Appeals Committee (EAC);
- i) spare;
- j) to elect Auditors;
- k) to accept, reaccept, suspend or expel any Member or Associate Member;
- l) to change the Constitution;
- m) to approve the formation and termination of Commissions;
- n) to consider any other matters as the Executive Committee shall deem worthy to be considered at such meeting;
- o) to consider any other matters at the request of Members, if duly submitted no less than sixty days prior to the General Meeting;
- p) to determine membership fees and show affiliation fees.

Art. 9 Quorum

- 9.1 At any General Meeting the majority of Members of ECAHO shall be present to constitute a quorum. The General Meeting remains a quorum even if the majority of the Members is no longer present, except in case a Member calls for a vote to suspend the remaining issues to the next General Meeting and the majority agrees.
- 9.2 No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum is present.

Art. 10 Right to Vote

- 10.1 Each Member shall have the right to two votes at a General Meeting. The votes shall be exercised by one or two Voting Delegate(s). The Voting Delegate(s) name(s), together with the name(s) of one to maximum two Substitute Voting Delegate(s) per Member and the order of substitution, shall be communicated in writing to and received by the Executive Secretary at least seven days prior to the General Meeting.
- 10.2 If a Voting Delegate is unable to attend a General Meeting and/or is not present at the beginning of a General Meeting, the Substitute Voting Delegate present shall automatically assume office as Voting Delegate and remain Voting Delegate until the General Meeting is closed.
- 10.3 Voting Delegates may exercise the Members' voting rights at the General Meeting.
- 10.4 No Voting Delegate shall act on behalf of more than one Member or vote for more than one Member. Voting shall not be transferable to another Member.
- 10.5 Any resolution and election shall be determined by a simple majority (i.e. the highest number) of the votes cast, save where expressly provided otherwise by law or the Constitution. Abstentions from voting do not count as votes cast. The possibility of a tacit election is not recognized.
- 10.6 In the event of an equality of votes on any resolution or in case of equality of votes on elections the Chairman shall have the casting vote.
- 10.7 Voting shall take place by open ballot unless it has been decided after petition supported by a majority of votes to have a secret ballot.
- 10.8 Each resolution shall be decided by ballot, unless it has been agreed unanimously not to hold a ballot.
- 10.9 Unless otherwise decided, resolutions passed by the General Meeting shall come into effect one day after the General Meeting.

Art. 11 The Executive Committee

- 11.1 The members of the Executive Committee are:
- a) the President;
 - b) the Treasurer;
 - c) the Chairmen of the Commissions;
 - d) five other candidates officially nominated by Members and elected by the General Meeting. The Vice-President shall be appointed by the Executive Committee members from among these five persons.

The total number of representatives of non-European countries should be not more than three.

Each member of the Executive Committee shall be elected for a term of four years with a possible re-election.

Not more than one representative of the same Member may serve in the Executive Committee in the same term.

Any member of the Executive Committee who no longer exercises his official function shall be promptly replaced by the General Meeting.

- 11.2 The President shall be elected only from among the European countries.
- 11.3 Each Member, seconded by one other Member, may propose a candidate to the Executive Secretary at least sixty days prior to the General Meeting.
- 11.4 Meetings of the Executive Committee shall take place at least twice a year and may be convened by written notice at the discretion of the President or by not less than three Members of the Executive Committee giving not less than fourteen days notice. Such notice in writing shall contain an agenda of matters for discussion and resolution, together with an explanation.

The President shall be responsible for convening meetings of the Executive Committee and for drawing up the agenda.

- 11.5 The President shall take the Chair at all meetings of the Executive Committee at which he is present. Should the President not be present, the Vice-President shall take the chair. Should the Vice-President not be present, the members of the Executive Committee shall choose one of their number to be the Chairman of that meeting. The Chairman shall sign the minutes of each meeting together with the Keeper of the Minutes.
- 11.6 The Executive Committee may take decisions on all matters which by law or the Constitution are not allocated to the General Meeting. The Executive Committee represents ECAHO legally. The Executive Committee shall manage the business of ECAHO insofar as it has not been delegated to any Commission, Subcommission or Committee of ECAHO. The Executive Committee has the power to impose sanctions on Members, Associate Members, Permanent and Temporary Officials and any other person for infringement of the Constitution, rules, regulations and decisions of ECAHO.

These sanctions are open to appeal to the EAC.

- 11.7 With regard to the finances, the Executive Committee shall have the following powers and duties:
- a) to borrow and/or invest upon such security and at such interest any money that is not immediately required for the purpose of ECAHO;
 - b) to purchase any real or personal property or to dispose of any such property;
 - c) to do or undertake any thing of a lawful nature, especially to lease, to rent and to rent out;
 - d) to receive subscriptions, donations or gifts;
 - e) any income or assets of ECAHO shall solely be used towards the objects of ECAHO and not be paid or transferred to any Member of ECAHO.
 - f) to safeguard the financial interest of ECAHO;
 - g) spare.
- 11.8 At every meeting of the Executive Committee each member of the Executive Committee shall have one vote. All resolutions shall be decided by a majority of votes. In cases of equality of votes the Chairman has the casting vote. The quorum necessary for any meeting of the Executive Committee shall be half of the Executive Committee Members.
- 11.9 The business of the Executive Committee may be conducted by letter or by other way of communication at the discretion of the President, subject to the President observing his responsibility to keep all members equally informed.
- 11.10 In the professed execution of the powers of the Executive Committee no member of the Executive Committee shall be liable for any loss to ECAHO made in good faith by any member or by any of his employed agents. Excluded thereof are wilful and individual fraud.

Art. 12 Commissions

The General Meeting may institute Commissions as may be necessary to carry out the object of ECAHO.

- 12.1 ECAHO has the following Commissions:
- a) the European Arab Horse Show Commission (EAHSC);
 - b) the European Arab Horse Registration and Identification Commission (EAHRIC);
 - c) the European Arab Horse Sports Commission (EAHSpC);
 - d) spare.
- 12.2 Each Member has the right to appoint one representative for each of the Commissions.
- 12.3 The objects of the European Arab Horse Show Commission (EAHSC) are:
- a) to affiliate Arab Horse Shows in member countries, and to approve dates, venues, conditions of entry and rules of conduct thereat;
 - b) to develop, maintain and advise on systems of judging at national and International Arab Horse Shows;
 - c) to instruct and train judges and Disciplinary Committee (DC) members;
 - d) to create and maintain lists of recommended Arab Horse judges, DC's and ring masters;

- e) to maintain and publish periodically a record of results of affiliated shows;
- f) to institute each year in a Member country a show to be known as the European Championships for Arab Horses;
- g) to create and enable enforcement of rules for ECAHO events, ECAHO affiliated events, and for Permanent and Temporary Officials;
- h) to create and enable enforcement of rules for the correct and fair conduct of horse owners, exhibitors, horse handlers, grooms, and assistants.

12.4 The objects of the European Arab Horse Registration and Identification Commission (EAHRIC) are:

- a) to work with Stud Book Authorities and WAHO to improve co-operation between countries in stud book matters;
- b) to encourage the simplification of transportation, veterinary and bordercrossing requirements for horses passing from one country to another;
- c) to develop systems for the electronic transfer of horse registrations;
- d) to develop systems to facilitate identification of horses in ECAHO events;
- e) spare.

12.5 The objects of the European Arab Horse Sports Commission (EAHSpC) are:

- a) to promote and maintain the aesthetic, mental, physical and functional qualities of the Arab Horse;
- b) to develop, co-ordinate and standardize national and international ridden and driven Arab Horse sport competitions in member countries (except races);
- c) to affiliate Arab Horse sport competitions in Member countries and to approve dates, venues, schedule, conditions of entry, rules of conduct and appointment of judges thereat;
- d) to create and maintain lists of recommended judges for Arab Horse sport competitions in Member countries;
- e) to institute each year in a Member country and to define the rules of an annual international ECAHO sport championship in Europe;
- f) to stimulate international contacts between National Arab Horse sport competition organisations within the Member countries;
- g) to promote the Arab Horse as a versatile, complete, functional and easy to ride horse;
- h) to select the best Arab Horses under saddle and to encourage them to participate in open sport competitions for all breeds;
- i) to maintain and periodically publish the results of affiliated Arab sport competitions;
- j) to create and enable enforcement of rules for ECAHO events, ECAHO affiliated events, and for Permanent and Temporary Officials;
- k) to create and enable enforcement of rules for the correct and fair conduct of horse owners, riders, grooms, and assistants.

12.6 The Commissions have the right to submit motions with regards to their special field to the Executive Committee.

12.7 The procedure of the Commissions shall follow that laid down for the General Meeting and the Executive Committee, with all necessary adaptations. However, at the meetings of the Commissions no quorum shall be required and decisions will be taken by simple majority of the Members present at the meeting at the time the vote or the election is held.

12.8 The Executive Committee has the right to review and/or reject the performance and decisions of the Commissions.

Art. 13 Subcommissions

13.1 The Executive Committee may appoint Subcommissions to perform specific tasks which may arise and which are not the proper concern of any Commission or Committee and propose actions to the Executive Committee. Such Subcommissions are to be given guidelines which may be made public. The Executive Committees may also include in Subcommissions non-members of a Member. The Subcommissions shall elect their Chairman from among themselves. The Executive Committee may, in case of dispute, propose and appoint a Chairman.

13.2 The members of the Executive Committee may serve as members or officers of any Subcommission.

The procedure of the Subcommissions shall follow that laid down for the General Meeting and the Executive Committee, with all necessary adaptations. However, at the meetings of the Subcommissions no quorum shall be required and decisions will be taken by simple majority of the Members present at the meeting at the time the vote or the election is held.

13.3 The Executive Committee has the right to review and/or reject the performance and decisions of the Subcommissions.

Art. 14 Executive Secretary

14.1 The President may appoint or dismiss the Executive Secretary of ECAHO. ECAHO shall pay him an adequate salary and repay all reasonable expenditures incurred by him in the performance of his duties.

14.2 The President shall be responsible for the supervision of the Executive Secretary.

14.3 The Executive Secretary shall:

- a) organise and run the secretariat and correspondence of ECAHO;
- b) perform all duties stipulated in the job description issued by the President.

Art. 15 Auditors

The General Meeting shall elect qualified auditors each year. The Auditors shall audit the accounts kept by the Treasurer and present an audit report to the General Meeting.

Art. 16 Vacation of Office

Any Permanent and Temporary Official shall vacate office:

- a) if he shall be absent without apology from two consecutive meetings and/or events and the competent Committee and/or Commission and/or Subcommission resolves that he had by reason of such absence vacated office;
- b) if he is legally determined to be mentally or physically incapable of carrying out his responsibilities to ECAHO;
- c) if he is convicted of an offence for which a term of imprisonment shall have been imposed;

- d) if he is adjudged bankrupt or makes any arrangements or composition with his creditors;
- e) if his comportment is incompatible with the policies, rules, regulations, and decisions of ECAHO.

IV. FINANCE

Art. 17 Membership Fees

- 17.1 The General Meeting shall fix the amount of the annual membership fees on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.
- 17.2 Any such subscription is due on the date of the invoice and shall be payable within 30 days, but no later than January 1st of each year. The annual membership fees for new Members and Associate Members for the year in question shall be paid within 30 days of the close of the General Meeting at which they were admitted.

Art. 18 Accounts

The Treasurer shall keep the books of accounts and provide all information as requested by the auditor. He shall submit to the Executive Committee an income and expenditure account and balance for each year together with an auditor's report. The books of account and audited balance sheet shall be expressed in Swiss Francs (CHF). The financial year of ECAHO shall begin on January 1st and end on December 31st each year. Upon request by the President, the Treasurer shall prepare an interim financial status to the attention of the Executive Committee.

Art. 19 Payments

- 19.1 All payments shall be effected by payment order, signed by the Treasurer for amounts up to Swiss Francs 3,000. Payment orders of any amount over Swiss Francs 3,000 shall be signed by the Treasurer together with an authorized member of the Executive Committee.
- 19.2 Spare.

V. LIABILITY

Art. 20 The assets of ECAHO shall be exclusively liable for any debts of ECAHO.

VI. FINAL REGULATIONS

Art. 21 Jurisdiction, Disciplinary Measures and Judicial Bodies

21.1 The disciplinary measures which may be taken against Members and Associate Members are:

- a) a warning;
- b) a fine;
- c) a suspension of membership;
- d) an expulsion;
- e) spare.

21.2 The disciplinary measures which may be taken against individuals and legal entities are:

- a) a warning;
- b) a reprimand;
- c) a fine;
- d) a suspension of an individual and/or a horse for a specified period of time;
- e) an expulsion;
- f) a disqualification;
- g) a ban from the showground and/or the stables and/or other respective premises;
- h) a ban on taking part in any ECAHO and/or ECAHO-related activity;
- i) the return of awards and/or prize money;
- j) spare.

The disciplinary measures may take the form of yellow and red cards.

21.3 The Executive Committee may draw up an ECAHO Disciplinary Code.

21.4 The jurisdiction within ECAHO is represented by:

- a) the Executive Committee (EC);
- b) Disciplinary Committees (DC);
- c) the Standing Disciplinary Committee (SDC);
- d) the ECAHO Appeals Committee (EAC);
- e) the General Meeting.

21.5 At each ECAHO event or ECAHO affiliated event a Disciplinary Committee, consisting of Disciplinary Committee-members chosen from ECAHO's DC-Lists, shall adjudicate on measures and protests and enforce the Constitution and the applicable rules, regulations and decisions of ECAHO. The Disciplinary Committee will be supported by Temporary Officials appointed by the organizer. For the duration of their appointment, such Temporary Officials may take disciplinary measures on behalf and in support of the Disciplinary Committee.

21.6 The Standing Disciplinary Committee shall be elected for a term of five years and consist of five members, three to be a quorum and a decision-making body, with proven track-record in the Arabian horse scene and if possible as a member of Disciplinary committees. Preferably, at least one member shall be a veterinarian.

- 21.7 The Standing Disciplinary Committee shall:
- a) decide on measures and protests, if the matter be deemed beyond the jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Committee;
 - b) make a final decision on judgments of the Disciplinary Committee upon appeal by an aggrieved party.
- 21.8 The ECAHO Appeals Committee shall be elected for a term of five years and consist of five members, three to be a quorum and a decision-making body, preferably including at least two members with proven experience of legal matters.
- 21.9 The ECAHO Appeals Committee shall:
- a) decide on the application of the Constitution, rules, regulations and decisions of ECAHO in case of disputes without further appeal;
 - b) decide in the event of judgements made by the Standing Disciplinary Committee and by the Executive Committee, disputed by an aggrieved party.
- 21.10 Should the number of members of the Standing Disciplinary Committee and/or the ECAHO Appeals Committee drop below five members, the Executive Committee shall promptly replace the member who no longer exercises his function by appointment of an interim member. The term of office of such interim member expires on the date of the next General Meeting. The interim member may stand for election by the General Meeting.

Art. 22 Alterations and Additions to the Constitution

The provisions of this Constitution may from time to time be altered by means of a resolution approving such alteration passed at a General Meeting by a majority of not less than two thirds of the votes cast.

Art. 23 Dissolution

- 23.1 A three-quarter majority of all Members shall be required to dissolve ECAHO.
- 23.2 The property of ECAHO shall be used to cover all costs, liabilities and expenses of such dissolution and to cover any indemnities.
- 23.3 If upon the dissolution of ECAHO and after the resolution of all its debts, liabilities and costs, charges and expenses there remains any property whatsoever the same shall not be paid to or distributed amongst the Members. Any such property shall with the approval of the Executive Committee be sold, donated or transferred to some other institution or institutions having similar objectives to those of ECAHO.

Art. 24 Taking Effect

- 24.1 Unless otherwise decided, this Constitution shall come into effect one day after the General Meeting at which it has been approved. All previous versions shall be replaced.
- 24.2 This Constitution expressed in English shall be the definitive version of the Constitution.

Abu Dhabi, 27th March 2022