

THE AFRICAN CONFEDERATION OF EQUESTRIAN SPORT (ACES)

Rules and Regulations of ACES

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CHAPTER 1

Article 1. Name

The name of the organization (hereinafter called "ACES") is "THE AFRICAN CONFEDERATION OF EQUESTRIAN SPORT". ACES is an international non-governmental not-for-profit entity, of unlimited duration, in the form of a trust, the "ACES Trust" as duly registered in Mauritius. The Trustees and Founder Members are recognised in the Trust Document.

Article 2. Office

The administrative headquarters or office of ACES shall be decided by the ACES Board. The address of the office may be that of the Nation Federation (NF) of the President of the ACES Board from time to time; but the ACES Trust shall have a permanent registered address irrespective of the location of its office.

Article 3. Purpose

1. To develop and promote equestrian sport in the Africa in close cooperation with its NFs, the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) and the representative **African** stakeholders organisations.
2. To improve communications between all parties involved in equestrian sport.
3. To advocate for equestrian interests in Africa with relevant bodies including, but not only, the FEI and the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA).
4. ACES recognizes the FEI as the sole authority and governing body for the FEI Equestrian Disciplines.
5. ACES agrees not to become members or recognize or otherwise support any other international organisation with a similar purpose except those recognized by the FEI.

Article 4. Principles

1. The NFs have complete jurisdiction over all competitors, organisers and officials of their country.
2. The ACES shall not intervene in matters of equestrian sports which are within the national jurisdiction of NFs.
3. Participation in the activities of ACES will be at the expense of each member NF, unless otherwise decided by the ACES Board (Board) or the ACES General Assembly (GA).
4. The ACES will ensure that the needs of the different stakeholders in Africa equestrian are properly taken into account.
5. Nothing in these articles prevents a NF from maintaining a direct contact with the FEI.
6. GA prevails and the Trustees cannot take any decision whatsoever that is not expressly approved by ACES Board and/or ACES GA, when applicable.

Article 5. Duration & dissolution of ACES

The Trust and the Executive Trust Committee or ACES Board is constituted for an undetermined duration.

Except in case of dissolution ordered by a Court, the dissolution of the ACES can only be decided by the GA. The GA that decides to dissolve the ACES must appoint one or more liquidators and will decide to which trust or association, that has a similar purpose as the ACES, the assets of the trust after having settled all debts will be transferred.

CHAPTER 2

Article 6. Membership

6.1 Affiliate Members

All National Equestrian Federations, having membership of the FEI, of countries in the African Continent, defined as the continent of Africa and the outlying islands but not including those states or islands dependent of another **non African** country may apply for membership of the ACES. The ACES will only accept one National Equestrian Federation for each member country.

6.2 Associate Members

Associate members: The GA can accept as associate members any representative stakeholder organisations from the African Continent. Such members have no voting rights at the GA but are invited to participate in the activities of the ACES.

~~6.1 Affiliate Members~~

~~NFs that are a full member of the FEI, their NOC and ACES and are fully paid up. This membership category allows participation on the Board, all Committees and allows voting rights at the General Assembly.~~

~~6.2 Associate Members~~

~~NFs that are a full member of the FEI, their NOC and ACES but have not paid their membership for 12 consecutive months. This membership category may no longer participate in ACES competitions or be represented on boards/committees but may attend the General Assembly with no voting rights in ACES.~~

~~6.3 Non-FEI Affiliate Member~~

~~NFs that are an accepted member of their NOC and paid up members of ACES. Such members have no voting rights at the GA but are invited to participate in specific activities defined on a case by case basis by the ACES Board.~~

6.3 Application for Membership

Applications for membership must be approved by the GA. Based on special reasons the Board may accept an application for membership provisionally, which in such case should be confirmed at the next GA. **Voting rights will only come into effect after the respective GA.**

6.4. Honorary Member

The **GA** may, upon proposal of the Executive Board grant the status of honorary chair or

honorary member of the Board of Directors to persons who have given meritorious service to Equestrian in relation to ACES.

Honorary Chairs or Honorary Board Members ~~may~~ be invited to attend and speak at General Assemblies and Board Meetings of the Executive Board but shall have no vote.

6.5. Suspension and Exclusion of Members

The GA may decide to suspend temporarily or to exclude a member not fulfilling its financial obligations towards the ACES or not respecting the principles laid down in these Rules and Regulations. Members suspended by the FEI will automatically be suspended by the ACES for the same period. A member that wants to resign has to inform the ACES at least **one** month before the next GA.

CHAPTER 3

Article 7. Financial

7.1 Budgets

The Board shall prepare annual budgets & financial statements for adoption by the GA.

7.2 Membership Fee

A yearly membership fee may be charged as proposed and accepted at the ACES GA.

7.3 Competition Fee

All FEI competitions held under ACES regulations may incur an administrative fee.

7.4 Financial Year

The financial year starts on the 1st January and ends on 31st December.

CHAPTER 4

Article 8. **General Assembly**

8.1 Composition

The GA is the supreme authority of the ACES. Each member NF present at the GA will have one vote at the GA. NFs provisionally affiliated may not vote until they have been accepted as members by the GA. The GA will be chaired by the President of the ACES or if the President is unable to fulfil this task, by a Vice-President or a member of the Board chosen by the GA. In case of a voting tie the **President or the Chair of the Meeting will** exercise a deciding vote.

8.2 Functions and Powers of the GA

1. To approve the minutes of the previous GA.
2. To approve the agenda and the supporting papers.
3. To approve changes to the Rules & Regulations.
4. To approve any other Rules of the ACES.
5. To elect the President, Vice-Presidents and other Board members.
6. To elect the Auditors.
7. To fix annual subscriptions if desired, and special levies on members.
8. To approve the Yearly Accounts.
9. To give discharge to the Board and the Auditors.
10. To approve the Annual Budget.
11. To approve the Annual Report of the Board.
12. To approve applications for membership of the ACES.

13. To take decisions on the expulsion or suspension of a member.
14. To decide on items put on the agenda by the Board.
15. To decide on items introduced at least four weeks before the GA by a member NF.
16. To decide the establishment of permanent and temporary Ad Hoc Committees.
17. To elect members of Permanent Committees.
18. The dissolution of the ACES.

8.3 Sessions & Voting

1. At least one GA should be held once a year.
2. The invitation together with the agenda and the supporting papers should be sent to all members at least four weeks prior to the date of the session. After this deadline supporting papers and points can only be added to the agenda if the GA accepts this by a majority of voting members.
3. A GA should be convened at the request of the Board.
4. Any proposition of a member introduced at least four weeks before the GA must be put on the Agenda.
5. Quorum of the GA shall be two-thirds of the members.
6. All decisions will be taken by a simple majority except in cases of exclusion of membership, change of Rules and Regulations and dissolution of ACES, in which case a two-thirds majority is required.
7. Elections shall be made by a secret ballot if one member NF so proposes. Contested elections shall always be voted by secret ballot.
8. The Board is responsible for proper minutes being taken at all sessions, to be approved by the next GA.
9. The Minutes shall be sent to member NFs not later than four weeks after the GA.

Article 9. Emergency General Assembly (EGA)

ACES may hold an additional Extraordinary General Assembly at any time:

- (i) **At the request of the Board; or**
- (ii) **At the written request of at least one-fifth (1/5) of the NFs acting together.**

The date, place shall be decided by the Board. The procedure to convene an Extraordinary General Assembly must be the same as per an Ordinary General Assembly.

CHAPTER 5

Article 10 Board

The ACES Board is composed of the 4 [four] Office Bearers: the President, two Vice-Presidents, who must be respectively one each from the Northern Region (FEI Group VII) and the Southern Region (FEI Group IX)), ~~one Secretary General~~, one Treasurer and not more than 5 [five] Board Members. They are responsible for the governance and the representation of the ACES.

The President, the Vice Presidents and Treasurer must not be from the same NF. NFs are not permitted to have more than one of their members serve on the Board, either as Office Bearers or as Board Members. The membership of the Board must not have more than 60% of members from either the Northern (members of Group VII) or Southern (members of Group IX) Regions.

The President is responsible for ensuring that the purposes and principles of the ACES are observed, and for the general supervision of all its activities. The President or **their** appointed representative, when approved by the Board, may represent the ACES in relation to third parties.

The Board is competent for all matters that are not explicitly competences of the GA. **No Board Member may appoint and "Alternate" to represent them if they are unable to attend.** ~~If one of the Board Members is unable to attend a meeting, the Board Member may with prior notice and agreement of the Board nominate an Alternate to represent him.~~

All candidates for a position on the Board must have the support of their NF to be nominated. The NFs must be fully paid up **Affiliate** members of ACES to nominate a person to any position.

All memberships of the Board are honorary and carry no remuneration.

The term of office of the President is restricted to a term of 4 [four] years, renewable once only. He may not be nominated after their term for any other position on the Board, but may become an Honorary Chair or Honorary Members.

Vice-Presidents and the Treasurer shall be elected for a term of 4 [four] years, renewable once only. The term of office of the other Board Members shall be for 4 [four] years, renewable once only. At or before the end of their term(s), a Vice President, the Treasurer or a Board Member is eligible to be nominated as President or in another role as an Office Bearer and serve for 4 [four] years, renewable once only, but may not be nominated as a Board Member.

In the case of a vacancy on the Board before the end of the term, the next GA must elect a new Board Member to serve a 4 [four] year term, renewable once only, from the year of election.

After a maximum of 2 [two] full 4 [four] year terms, an Office Bearer or Board Member must take a compulsory break of at least 2 [two] years before they may be nominated for any position again. After such break, they may be nominated to serve either as an Office Bearer or a Board Member.

The President shall chair the meeting of a GA, EGA, and the Board. If the President is unable to do so, a member of the Board is chosen by the members or Board, normally a Vice President, shall Chair the meeting.

In the event of a tie in voting at a Board Meeting, the designated **President or the Chair of the Meeting** ~~Chair, may~~ **will** exercise a deciding vote [**Article 8 and 9** – GA or EGA].

Should a Board Member not be present for three (3) consecutive meeting, this Board Member may be removed by the powers of the Board

Article 11. Meetings

Meetings of the GA, EGA and Board may be in person, by email, by telephone conference or via clear online media connection.

A quorum of the board is considered to be 66% and above of the current Board Members. A quorum of a GA or EGA is considered 66% of registered Affiliate Members. ~~However,~~ A quorum must be connected for the duration of any points of a Board Meeting or GA requiring a vote. It is strongly recommended that one Board meeting in person is held per year during the period of FEI GA or an EGA.

Article 12. The Secretary General

The President shall nominate a Secretary General, for approval by the Board. The appointment will be honorary unless otherwise resolved by the Board. ~~The SG must be from opposite region as to the President. (defined as the Northern Region (FEI Group VII) and the Southern Region (FEI Group IX))~~

~~The role of the SG is defined as working with the Board Members to provide timeous topics for the agenda and subsequent records of all meetings. The SG will be the liaison for NFs, Sub Committees and other stakeholders as required with the Board.~~

Article 13. The Treasurer

The Treasurer should have a recognised financial qualification or a minimum of 10 year proven track record in accounting. The Treasurer will produce regular account updates for Board Meeting and the annual financial statement at the GA. The Treasurer is responsible for the annual invoicing of membership fees.

Article 14. Technical Committees

Permanent Committees may be decided by the GA. The members of Permanent Committees are elected by the GA. Members of Permanent Committees are elected for a term of two [2] years and may be re-elected once without an intervening period of at least two years. These positions are honorary.

Temporary Ad Hoc Committees may be decided by the Board with the ultimate approval of the GA, for particular purposes. The members of Temporary Ad Hoc Committees are appointed by the Board. The duration of the mandate of members of Temporary Ad Hoc Committees is decided by the Board and must be explicitly mentioned in the nomination decision.

Representative stakeholder associations may send a representative as a member to the meetings of the Permanent Ad Hoc Committees. The meetings of the Committees are open. All NFs will be informed about the meetings and their agenda and have the right to send a representative.

Article 15. Official Language

English is the official language of the ACES.

Annex 1 – Definitions

“ACES”	Africa Confederation of Equestrian Sport
“AASC”	Association of African Sports Confederations [In French = UCSA]
“ANOCA”	Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa [In French = ANOCA]
“EGA”	Extraordinary General Assembly
“FEI”	International Equestrian Federation
“GA”	General Assembly
“NF”	National (Equestrian) Federation, which are members of the FEI, from the African Continent (including FEI members of the Indian Ocean recognised as part of the African Continent
“Agenda”	Means the points to be discussed at the meeting
“Annual Budget”	Means a summary of the income and expenditure of ACES for a 12-month period;
“Auditors”	Means an independent accounting firm
“Executive Board”	
“Office Bearer”	
“Board”	Means the individuals representing ACES Board
“Corporate Trustee”	Means a body corporate appointed or acting as trustee;
“Individual Trustee”	Means an individual of full age who has the legal capacity to contract;
“Representative Stakeholder Organisations”	Recognised associations of athletes, organisers, owners, officials, animal welfare or otherwise as accepted by the GA.
“Yearly Accounts”	Means a comprehensive report of ACES activities throughout the preceding year.

In all cases the male shall include the female. Horse shall include pony