

INTERNATIONAL CANICROSS & BIKE-JOËRING FEDERATION (ICF)

previously called EUROPEAN CANICROSS FEDERATION (ECF)

HISTORY

(page 1)

- 1) Canicross was invented jointly in France (*Gilles Pernoud 1982*) and in Belgium (*Véronique Bourdon 1987*).
- 2) Bike-Joëring, on its part, officially appeared « by default » following a lack of snowfall (*Czech Republic 1990*).
- 3) The first European Canicross Championship was organized in Belgium (Malonne 1998) by Jean-Luc Bertinchamps under the name « Eurocanicross ». This name was abandoned in 2004. Then followed subsequently, in this order: Lyon (*France 1999*), Valeyre sous Rance (*Switzerland 2000*), Pilsen (*Czech Republic, 2001*), Spa (*Belgium 2002*), Pomiechówek (*Poland 2003*), Szilvasvarad (*Hungary 2004*), Saignelégier (*Switzerland 2005*), Nancy (*France 2006*), Völklingen (*Germany 2007*), etc...
- 4) The European Canicross Federation (ECF) first naturally took on the form of a de facto association, chaired by Willy Charmillot
- 5) Bike-joëring was programmed for the first time at an ECF European Championship in Valleyre sur Rance (*Switzerland 2000*) organized by the FSCS chaired by Willy Charmillot.
- 6) On 11 April 2004 in Moutier (*Switzerland*), the ECF gets formalised, by getting incorporated under the form of a non-profit organisation. Three founding nations collaborated to the development of its articles of association:
 - Switzerland represented by Willy Charmillot and Pablo Cassina.
 - France represented by Jean-Luc Payre and Jacques Adam.
 - Belgium represented by Jean-Pierre Talbot and Jean-Luc Bertinchamps.
- 7) The First official General Meeting of the ECF was held on 08 October 2004 in Szilvasvarad (*Hungary*) with Willy Charmillot as a President.
- 8) The First official Board of Administrators was elected on 07 October 2005 on the occasion of the General Meeting held in Saignelégier (*Switzerland*). It was made up as follows: Willy Charmillot (President) – Jean-Pierre Talbot (Vice-president) – Pablo Cassina (Secretary) – Laurent Thibaudgeorges (Treasurer) – Istvan Sveda, Jacques Adam and Pietro Giovanni Guadagnini (administrators).
- 9) The articles of association are amended (completed) on the occasion of the GM held in Porrentruy (*Switzerland*), on 11 May 2013, which was chaired by Jean-Pierre Talbot.
- 10) On the occasion of the GM held in Blairgowrie (*Scotland – UK*, on 08/10/2015) chaired by Jean-Pierre Talbot, the ECF extends its powers at global level through the creation of a subsidiary called “World Canicross Federation” (WCF) governed by the same Board of Administrators. The same articles of association and regulations are applicable, i.e. those of the ECF.
- 11) By decision taken on the occasion of the GM held on 16/04/2016 in Nove Mesto (*Czech Republic*), the ECF changed its name and is henceforth called **International Canicross & Bike-Joëring Federtation (ICF)** without any amendment of the regulations or articles of association and.
- 12) In 2017, the mark « **ICF** » (discipline and logo) is registered at global level under **reference number 016629776**.

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

(Established in April 2004 --- modified in October 2013 and in October 2015 and in April 2016)

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1TH SUBSECTION : CONSTITUTION – NAME – LEGAL FORM – LEGAL DEPOSIT - GOAL – REGISTERED OFFICE – DURATION

Article 1 - CONSTITUTION – NAME - LEGAL FORM – LEGAL DEPOSIT

1) CONSTITUTION – NAME:

Has been founded between all the physical and legal persons affiliated and accepting the present articles of association a federation named:

European Canicross Federation (ECF).

2) Legal form :

The ICF is constituted under the regulations of a « Non-Profit Organisation » or (NPO). It is a grouping of physical and legal persons organising activities and having a common goal. This structure is not seeking commercial operations or to generate any material profit for its members. Nevertheless it doesn't prohibit creating a financial buffer to ensure its future.

3) Legal deposit:

Canicross was invented jointly in France (*Gilles Pernoud 1982*) and in Belgium (*Véronique Bourdon 1987*).

Bike-Joëring, on its part, officially appeared (*Czech Republic 1990*) "by default" due to a lack of snowfall.

The first European Canicross Championship was organized in Belgium (*Malonne 1998*) by Jean-Luc Bertinchamps. Bike-joëring was programmed for the first time at an ECF European Championship in Valleyre sur Rance (*Switzerland 2000*) organized by the FSCS (chaired by Willy Charmillot).

All persons named are legally considered "inventor" and the resulting rights belong to them. These same persons drafted before lawyers a cessation of their rights in favour of the ECF became ICF. The ICF therefore now holds these rights.

On the other hand, the trademark "**ICF**" (discipline and logo) has been registered in 2017 worldwide under reference number 016629776.

Therefore, the ICF is the only entity legally authorized to organize a World Championship and/or European Canicross and Bike-joëring disciplines.

Article 2 - GOALS

The federation has the following goals:

- 1) The establishment of a European working rule for sports unifying one canine and one human athlete in the same sports effort.
- 2) The promotion and development of these disciplines in canine sports on the European level without any discrimination by race or origin.
- 3) The cooperation with all the national federations affiliated and pursuing the same goals and the same philosophy.
- 4) The improvement of relations with the international administrations and authorities.
- 5) To study and introduce new disciplines in canine sports.

Article 3 – REGISTERED OFFICE

The address of the registered office for the federation is the address of the President in charge. The administration board can, by ordinary resolution, define another address.

Article 4 - DURATION

The duration of the federation is unlimited.

2ND SUBSECTION: COMPOSITION – AFFILIATION

Article 5 - COMPOSITION

The ICF is composed by representatives of the national federations, whose affiliation has been accepted and who are effectively assuming their duties and responsibilities.

Article 6 - AFFILIATION: REQUIREMENTS – MEMBERSHIP FEES – DEFICIT

A. REQUIREMENTS FOR AFFILIATION :

- 1) Every federation that wishes to affiliate to the ICF must satisfy the requirements defined in the « affiliation-rules ».
- 2) Every federation must be able to develop their activities in autonomy; this means they cannot be dependant from other groupings, associations, federations or others... On the other hand, this article does not exclude collaboration - even very close – with other structures or institutions.
- 3) Every federation must respect the articles of association of the ICF (the last version is always available for download on the ICF website).

Especially, the federations must be engaged to develop the ICF disciplines in their respective countries by organising:

- a) special competitions, beside specific dry land sled dog events
- b) an annual national championship in our disciplines,

and/or

An annual national challenge, which considers, the participation, as well as the race results.

4) To be considered as a candidate for affiliation to the ICF, a nation must be represented by:

- a) A federation or association (type « non-profit organisation » or NPO) established to promote canine sports as described in article 2 of this document.
- b) A club or another type of grouping, if there is no existing federation for the ICF disciplines in the respective country. In this case, this grouping has to establish after the affiliation as soon as possible a federation (type NPO).
- c) A section of an existing federation, for example a section « Canicross et bikejöring » of an existing musher-association. In this case, the section must have an own administration board to ensure its independence.

d) The federation must:

- Provide their articles of association to the ICF.
- Communicate to the ECF the names of their legal representatives with e-mail and postal address.
- Inform the ICF about any modification in the articles of association or concerning their representatives.

5) Each nation can only be represented by one single federation. Only this federation is authorised to accept and forward registrations for their country for the European Championship.

6) Every nation has the same rights, preconditioned that they assumed their duties and responsibilities. This means:

a) Being in order on the legal base of the affiliation, this means having established a federation type NPO or waiting / planning to establish a structure compliant to these articles of association as soon as possible.

b) Being in order with the financial accounting of the ICF (membership fee paid).

c) Having assigned for the European Championship:

- One person (not a competing athlete) to work on the technical committee, when the nation was drawn by lot on the occasion of the Spring GM.

- One person to assume the role of a Team Manager, who is assisting to the meetings for « Team Managers ». The Team Manager cannot be part of the technical committee.

If a nation does not assume these duties and responsibilities, the country (this means the federation representing it) loses its rights, especially the right to vote in the general assembly of the present year. In case of recurrence, the administration board can also propose to the members to vote about an exclusion of the defaulting nation.

Losing one's voting rights does not prohibit the defaulting nation from taking part to the discussions.

B. MEMBERSHIP FEE (price for affiliation and yearly renewal)

The price for the affiliation to the ICF is fixed by the general assembly. It is identical for every country.

The membership fee must be paid annually.

C. END OF AFFILIATION

The affiliation of a nation (federation) ends or is lost in the following situations:

1) After a written demission to the address of the president or the secretary of the ICF (by registered letter with acknowledgement of acceptance). The demission is validated on the next general assembly and gives no right for any refunds. The annual fee for the present year is still owed.

2) Multiple non-payment of the annual membership fee.

3) Non-payment of the amount owed to the ICF for the organisation of the European Championship (x € per registered adult athlete).

4) The general assembly can decide about the exclusion of a defaulting member for any other reason.

3RD SUBSECTION : ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATION

Article 7 - RESPONSIBILITY

All contracts and other obligations of the ICF are secured by its fortune. The elements of the ICF or the members cannot be taken into responsibility.

Article 8 - GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- 1) A general assembly (GA) is held every year.
- 2) A second general assembly can be held if necessary.

- 3) Every nation :
- a) Has two voting rights, without any restriction due to its importance or size, preconditioned it has assumed all their duties and responsibilities; see article 6 / A. / 6).
 - b) Is represented by one single federation or other national grouping, which has to delegate two representatives for the participation and votes at the GA. Every representative must be at least 18 years old on the day of the GA.
 - c) Can ask to add one or more points to the agenda of the GA, on the condition this is made in time and the updated agenda can be sent to the members accordingly to the prescribed delays; see article 8 / 4) / a).
- 4) The general assembly of all National Federation delegates shall:
- a) be convened by letter addressed to each affiliated federation or by e-mail to the last e-mail address communicated to the Secretary. Deadline for Agenda items shall be 30 days before.
 - b) include the election of the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer, the President of the technical Commission and, if necessary, an additional administrator, which will constitute the Board of Directors (Office). All the candidates for these positions must be present at the respective GA. A Secretary is designated in Office by the President without further formalities.
 - c) designate by election two financial auditors, who will be responsible for presenting at the next GA a written report about the accounting during the respective period.
 - d) nominate two scrutineers, responsible for the Organization and the validity of the votes. Votes shall be by show of hands. In the event of parity, the voice of the President will be the deciding vote. At the request of a single national delegate, voting shall take place by secret ballot.
 - e) Be responsible for the deliberation and decisions about all points on the agenda. This includes especially the following points:
 - reading and approving the minutes of the last GM
 - presentation of the accounts by the treasurer
 - report on the accounting by the financial auditors
 - Approving the accounts by vote
 - Approving the budget and accepting forecasts of the federation
 - Electing two new financial auditors for the next period (one year)
 - Fixing the amount of the annual membership fee (affiliation to the ECF)
 - Hearing of the candidates in case of elections: see article 8/4)/a)
 - Fixing the date of the next GM,
 - All other points added to the agenda by the administration board or by member requesting such addition in due time ; see article 8/4)/a).
 - f) No quorum relative to the number of members is needed. The GA is deliberating and voting based on the nations present. Proxies are not allowed.

Article 9 – ADMINISTRATION BOARD: MEETINGS

The administration board shall hold as many meetings as necessary. It can also deliberate about any points by email.

The secretary is responsible to centralise all information and to establish minutes / a report, which is distributed to all the members of the administration board.

Article 10 – ADMINISTRATION BOARD: EXCLUSION OR RESIGNATION

The membership in the administration board ends or is lost :

- by death,
- by resignation, written to the address of the president or the secretary of the ICF (by registered letter with acknowledgement of acceptance) or announced in an official meeting,
- by exclusion according to a vote by the affiliated members on the occasion of a GA, for infraction on the present articles of association or other grave reasons with important negative consequences to a national federation and/or to the ICF,
- by retirement of the mandate pronounced by the members own national federation or by losing the affiliation to this respective national federation.

Article 11 - ADMINISTRATION BOARD: COMPENSATION

All function in the ICF administration board are voluntary; see article 1 / 2).

Article 12 - ADMINISTRATION BOARD: RESPONSIBILITIES

The Administration board has far-reaching powers to fulfil their work according to the goals of the ICF. The limits of these powers is decided by the GA.

The administration board can specially give authorisation to all acts and operations of the federation, which are not reserved to the general assembly or an assembly extraordinary.

In case of a grave misconduct, the board can vote the exclusion of one of its members by the majority of the members present. This vote is always secret.

The administration board is also responsible for the use of the federation's fortune. It authorises the treasurer for any expense (collective signature needed for bank transactions: president and treasurer).

The board also authorises all contracts and purchases on behalf of the ECF. All the goods purchased do belong to the federation and shall be necessary for reaching its goals.

Article 13 – ADMINISTRATION BOARD : COMPOSITION

The administration board (office) consists of 4 to 6 (maximum) persons, who are assuming the following roles :

- President, election by the GA.
- Vice-president, election by the GA.
- Treasurer, election by the GA.
- Secretary, designated by the president without other formalities
- President of the technical committee, election by the GA

and optionally a sixth administrator, election by the GA.

The members of the board are elected for a period of four years. They can be re-elected for maximum three mandates in a row. The elections take place in the GA in autumn and must feature on the agenda.

Article 14 – ADMINISTRATION BOARD : ROLES OF THE MEMBERS

The members of the board have to assume especially the following tasks according to their roles :

a) The president is responsible for the effective operation of the ICF. He shall direct the work of the administration board; lead the general assembly (and assembly extraordinary). He plans the expenses and represents the ICF in all acts in civil life and in front of courts or other associations. If unable to attend, he can also delegate his power to another member of the board.

b) The vice-president is second and deputy for the president

c) The secretary is responsible for the administrative functioning of the federation (update of the different registers, addresses, production of the minutes from meetings and many more...). He is also in charge of all other paperwork as correspondence and invitations.

d) The treasurer is in charge of accounts for the federation. He pays the bills for the ICF and is controlling the receipts.

e) The president of the technical committee is leading the technical committee and organising their meetings.

f) The optional sixth administrator is assuming the tasks given to him by the administration board.

g) **Remark:** The person having a position in the Board of Administrators is not automatically appointed by his/her nation to represent it.

Article 15 - VOTES

Votes are public. The organisation and process is assured by scrutineers designated at the beginning of the meeting or assembly. The names of the scrutineers have to feature in the minutes of the meeting.

Decisions are always taken by simple majority of the members present (for meetings of the administration board as well as at the general assembly). In case of a tie result, the president's voice is arbitrate and final.

Article 16 - ASSEMBLY EXTRAORDINARY

An assembly extraordinary is organised under the circumstances fixed in these articles of association.

To be able to validate its decisions, at an assembly extraordinary must be present at least 50% plus one, members having the right to vote.

If this quorum is not reached, the assembly extraordinary has to be invited again. On this second date, the decisions can be taken by simple majority of the members present.

The assembly extraordinary is invited after decision by the administration board or if three affiliated countries (members) are asking to do this.

The assembly extraordinary is responsible for the following decisions, which are only in the competence of this assembly:

- a) Modifications of the present articles of association
- b) Dissolution of the ICF

The decisions of the assembly extraordinary have to be taken by a qualified majority of two-thirds of the ingoing votes.

All votes at the assembly extraordinary are secret votes.

4th SUBSECTION : RESOURCES OF THE FEDERATION – ACCOUNTING

Article 17 - RESOURCES OF THE FEDERATION: ACCOUNTING

The resources (financial resources/fortune) of the federation are containing:

- 1) The product of the membership fees paid by the affiliated nations
- 2) The rights of the organisation of the European Championship (fee of x € per registered adult athlete)
- 3) Subventions eventually given by a country or other organisations (European or Worldwide)
- 4) All other financial resources or grants that are not against effective laws and provisions.
- 5) Receipts from selling products
- 6) Administrative receipts (protest fees/ claims)
- 7) Donations.

Remember, the ICF is allowed to create a fortune / financial buffer to ensure its future and to guarantee the functioning of the federation, see article 1 / 2).

5TH SUBSECTION: DISSOLUTION OF THE FEDERATION

Article 18 - DISSOLUTION

The dissolution is pronounced on demand of the administration board after a decision of an assembly extraordinary held especially for this question.

To be valid, this decision must be taken by a qualified majority of two-thirds of the ingoing votes, se article 16.

The vote is secret.

Article 19 – SUCCESSION OF THE GOODS

In case of dissolution, the assembly extraordinary has to designate one or more liquidators, who are in charge to ensure the succession of the federation's goods.

It is excluded in every case, that the members of the administration board can be attributed a part of the ICF goods.

The fortune of the ICF will be distributed to the affiliated members or a charitable association.

6TH SUBSECTION : INTERNAL RULES – ADMINISTRATIVE FORMALITIES

Article 20 – INTERNAL RULES

Internal rules can be established by the administration board. After this they have to be approved by the general assembly.

These optional rules are intended to fix themes or discussion points not included in the present articles of association. Especially all rules concerning the functioning of the practical organisation of the ECF disciplines can be managed this way.

Article 21 - ADMINISTRATIVE FORMALITIES

The president of the administration board is charged with all formalities of declaration and publications intended by law, from the moment of the creation of the federation until its dissolution and succession.

Established in Moutier (Switzerland), on 10 and 11 April 2004 *under the mandate of president Willy Charmillot*

Amended in Porrentruy (Switzerland), on 11 May 2013 et ratified in Coeuve (Switzerland), on 10 October 2013 *under the mandate of president Jean-Pierre Talbot.*

Extension of the powers at global level in Blairgowrie (Scotland – UK), on 08 October 2015 *under the mandate of president Jean-Pierre Talbot.*

Change of name (ECF becomes ICF) in Nové Mesto (Czech Republic), on 16 April 2016 *under the mandate of president Jean-Pierre Talbot.*

The original version of this document is established in French. In case of differences between the original version and any translation, the French text is the only decisive.