

# Statutes

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## **Statutes of the** **World Sled-Dog Association –WSA- e.V.** **Vers. 17.1**

(founded 1995)

Background: - revised and overhauled September 2010

- agreed on 11.12.2010 during members' meeting
- altered on 03.09.2011 during members' meeting
- altered on 22.09.2012 during members' meeting
- altered on 20.09.2014 during members' meeting
- altered on 10.06.2017 during member' meeting (§6 Bodies of the Association)

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### **Prologue:**

The World Sled Dog Association WSA unites all international federations, associations, organisations (the members) which support racing sport with sled dogs, whereby WSA events can only take place with sled dog breeds that have been recognised as such and approved as such by the International Cynological Federation F.C.I. In its capacity as an important and well regarded organisation of such members it is the aim of the WSA to encourage a common and unified development/support of sled dogs. The autonomy of its members is guaranteed.

The member associations of WSA can only enter and send members to championships/competitions of the WSA which are of the same nationality as the member association itself or members with the same first residence in the same country as the member association. The entered candidate, however, has to have had his/her first residence in the applying country for at least 12 months.

Members of other organisations are allowed to participate in WSA events if they have been nominated by their national WSA association.

It is intended to submit this Statute to the Olympic Committee in Lausanne.

WSA and its members commit to cooperate in a trustworthy manner with the corresponding breeders' associations of the various countries.

The official WSA languages are English and German. In the case of disputes only the German versions of the statutes and rules are valid. As a basic rule, meetings of the Association are to be held in such WSA language acceptable to all participants.

- **1 Name, Domicile, Function**

1. The Association has the name 'World Sled Dog Association e.V.', short WSA.

WSA was founded in 1995 and is registered under No. VR 479 in the Court of Registration of the Amtsgericht in 74722 Buchen.

2. The Association has its domicile in 74722 Buchen, Germany.

3. The field of activity reaches over the whole world and to countries, which do not inhibit free transit and people's liberty.

- **2 Purpose/Aim**

1. The aim of the Association is the practice and development of the sled dog racing sport with sled dog breeds approved by the F.C.I. as follows:

- Siberian Husky

- Alaskan Malamute

- Greenland hound (dog)

- Samoyede

2. The Association is exclusively and directly a charitable (non-profit making) organisation in the context of legislation for tax exemption.

The purpose of the statute is realised especially through the development and organisation of events of international sled dog racing competitions according to section 1 and with the means and tasks of § 3. The Association is non-profit making; it does not pursue any financial benefit. The means of the Association are only to be used for the purposes detailed in the Statute. Members do not receive remuneration out of the means of the Association.

No person is to be favoured with expenses which are contrary to the purpose of the Association, or by unreasonably high compensation.

All positions within the Association are held on an honorary basis.

Members of the Board can for board related activities receive a total of Euros 50 per year – this has to be determined at the members' meeting. The actual internal WSA regulation of cost is valid for all other

expenditure.

3. Excluded or retired members have no entitlement to the assets of the Association.
4. The Association can become a member of other federations or organisations in order to realise its goals.

- **3 Functions**

The functions of the Association are:

1. The organisation and conduct of World- and European Championships or other international competitions in cooperation with a national WSA Association or another international organisation. Such location or country should vary from year to year within the federation.
2. The harmonisation and coordination of time tables for international Sled Dog races as well as competitions, championships, cup events or other international challenges in cooperation with and amongst the members.
3. The harmonisation of the race rules in all member countries and control of their application, in addition to the observation of these rules by the members and their sled dog racers.
4. The support of the members in their efforts to develop the sled dog racing sport in their countries.
5. The observation of laws and orders for the protection of animal rights and for the prevention of maltreatment of the animals as far as these laws and orders relate to the goals of the Association.
6. Representation and development of sled dog racing sport, together with the members, vis a vis national and international authorities and especially the O.C.
7. Development of cooperation between the members and friendly relationships amongst them.
8. The provision of good communication and information of the WSA and its members by providing an up to date Website/Homepage.

- **4 Basic Principles**

WSA and its members are encouraged to adhere to the following basic principles:

1. Sled dog races according to the statutes of the WSA are only to be held with pedigree sled dogs in accordance with F.C.I. rules and regulations.
2. The fundamental principles of amateur sport and fair play have to be observed and adhered to at all times.
3. WSA and its members guarantee to observe the rules of international federations for the prevention of maltreatment of animals.
4. The following grades and categories are fixed for reasons of sport specific registration:

Category 1 = Siberian Husky

Category 2 = Alaskan Malamute, Greenlandhound, Samoyede

Grades = UL, 8,6,4,2, SM, SW, SJM, SJW, MD (middle Distance, D (long Distance)

- **5 Business Year**

The business year starts on 1<sup>st</sup> April and ends on 31<sup>st</sup> March of the following year.

- **6 Bodies of the Association**

Bodies of the Association are:

1. The meeting of the members – General Assembly/GA
2. The Board

The supreme body of the Association is the General Assembly/GA. The Association is led and managed by an executive body (the Board) which is made up as follows:

- Chairman
- Vice Chairman
- Director Sport
- Secretary
- Treasurer

The Board members are elected by the General Assembly for a period of 3 years. Within this body or when decision making during the General Assembly/GA every Board member has one vote. This vote is valid independent of the fact that a board member

might also be a delegate of his/her national association. A board member or a delegate can have a maximum two (2) votes. In the event of a tie the vote of the Chairman is decisive. The transfer of a right to vote beyond a national association is not allowed. The members of the Extended Board, the technical directors (Director Sprint/ Director Middle Distance/ Director Long Distance/ Director Dryland/ Director/Public Relations/ Webmaster) and the Association's Vet/Anti-Doping Representative, are also openly elected for a period of 3 years and also have the right to vote. The members of the Extended Board each have only 1 vote even if they fulfil more than one function. More than 2 functions are not allowed.

The Race Directors' Committee, which consist of the Sport Director and 2 elected WSA race judges, is the supreme jurisdictional body in all race sport related matters as far as WSA events are concerned. This is due for participants, Race Directors and/or race judges as well as their decisions. The members of the race directors' committee should be from 3 different nations. The Chairman or the Vice Chairman of the WSA will cover this position in individual cases should one of these committee members be directly involved. The members of the Race Directors' Committee are openly elected for a period of 3 years.

The auditors are openly elected for a period of 2 years. The accounts of the Association are to be audited after the close of the business year by the auditors. The audit includes the examination of potential balance sheet obligations requiring adherence to taxation laws.

#### • **7 Members' Attributes**

1. The national Sport Associations with pedigree sled dogs in accordance with F.C.I. can become members of WSA.
2. Each country can only be represented by 1 (one) member federation or organisation. Such an organisation is to unite under its umbrella all national clubs and organisations which develop and support sled dog sport with pedigree

1. sled dogs in accordance with F.C.I. Membership of more than one organisation per country is possible if this is deemed to be necessary due to language,

historical or sport-related reasons. Such a regulation has to be confirmed by vote in the General Assembly (GA).

1. Organisations or federations which are interested in races with pedigree sled dogs can acquire associate status. Associate members have no voting right and individual members do not automatically have the right to participate in WSA races. The inclusion of such associate members can be approved by the Board. Final inclusion of such members has to be confirmed by the General Assembly.
2. Civil Rights Organisations can also become members of the WSA.

1. Organisations, Federations and Individuals cannot become members if they are members of organisations who conduct sled dog races not in accordance with the F.C.I. – definition pedigree sled dogs. This is not so for organisations which are members of an association in which WSA is also a member.
2. Individuals can receive associate member status which enables them to take part in WSA events. Such individual membership, however, is only possible for sled dog racing competitors from countries which do not have a federation or organisation with membership of WSA. Such members do not have the right to vote. Individual members only gain associate membership if two thirds of the votes in the General Assembly (GA) are in favour of such a membership and if there is no more than 1 (one) vote by the Board of the WSA against such membership.
3. Such members of organisations who are in direct competition to WSA (in an organisational and/or administrative capacity in respect to WSA's aims and objectives) cannot become full members of WSA. Also, these racing competitors cannot obtain WSA titles. Exceptions, which serve and develop solely and directly the sport competition of all members of international organisations, can be granted.
4. WSA can grant honorary membership to persons or organisations who have rendered outstanding services to the objectives of WSA. Honorary membership has to be decided by a two thirds (2/3) majority of the GA.

## - **8 Obtaining Membership and Status of Affiliation**

Application for membership is to be submitted to the chairman of the WSA in form of a participation declaration. The following documents are to be submitted together with the application:

- Recognition of and agreement to the effective/valid WSA Statute
  - A declaration regarding the willingness to participate in WSA events
  - An authenticated copy of the entry at the local court registry together with an authenticated copy of the effective/valid statute
- 
- A list of the members of the executive body, a list of member clubs and/or the individual members
- 
- A list of the names of at least 5 active racing competitors (4 snow races in one season) including the race results
  - An individual person who wants to become a member has to submit a corresponding application to the chairman

It is essential for federations and organisations who want to obtain membership of the WSA to pursue identical objectives in the direction of aforementioned § 2 to 4. The General Assembly (GA) decides by a vote of majority the admission into the Association. The criteria regarding the vote for individual membership are listed in § 7.6.



- **9 Termination of Membership and Status of Affiliation**

1. Membership is terminated either by resignation, exclusion or winding up of the member organisation.
2. A member can leave the Association at the end of every business year. The Chairman has to receive written notification to this effect at the latest 3 months before the end of the business year. The exit of a member from the WSA is confirmed in writing.
3. The exclusion of a member can occur on the basis of a board resolution and especially for the following reasons:

1. due to violation or non-compliance of the rules or the statutes of the Association
2. due to breach or violation of agreements or resolutions of WSA
3. due to violation of the documented basics of sporting behaviour, the interests of the Association or because of incorrect behaviour in connection with animal rights
4. due to membership of another sled dog federation which is not in unison with F.C.I.
5. Individual members of national associations can be excluded and/or banned from WSA events for gross unsportsmanlike behaviour for up to 2 years.

The decision regarding the exclusion/ban will be submitted for ratification to the next General Assembly. These exclusion procedures can be initiated by a Board decision or in connection with a justified request of a member of the Association. For the exclusion a two thirds (2/3) majority of the Board is needed in favour of the exclusion. The excluded member can oppose/protest this decision with the Board within 4 weeks of the exclusion being served. After protest, the Board must adhere to the following:

- the exclusion decision has to be submitted to the next General Assembly for discussion and decision. In this case the member to be excluded has all rights and obligations which are basic to this Statute.
  - The member concerned has to be suspended until the next General Assembly. The GA then votes regarding the exclusion of the member and the majority vote is decisive.
- 
- During the suspension period/temporary ban the respective member is not entitled to take part in any WSA event or to vote in a WSA resolution. The exception is the vote concerning the members own exclusion/ban in the General Assembly.
  - Every member of the WSA body which belongs to the federation of a suspended member will also be suspended from the position within the WSA body.

1. Member status is cancelled by the Board in the following cases:

1. If the Federation or Organisation is revoked or dissolved.
2. If a public authority has stripped a Federation or Organisation of legal responsibilities and/or competence.

The loss of membership status does not forego the fulfilment of demands and obligations which have not yet been met at that point in time vis a vis the Association. The legal successors have to meet all the demands and obligations vis a vis the Association which have not been met prior to the loss of membership.

- **10 Membership and Subscription Fees**

1. As soon as membership formalities have been concluded, members have to pay membership contributions as determined by the General Assembly. The Amount to be paid for membership is determined as follows:
  1. Member federations or member associations pay 1 (one) Euro for every member of the federation; subject to a minimum of 70 (seventy) Euros for up to 100 members.
  2. Individual members and Associate Members pay a subscription fee of 50 (fifty) Euros.
  3. Honorary members do not pay a contribution.
  4. A musher participating in a WSA event and not nominated by a national association, has to pay a higher entry fee. The difference in the amount is for the account of WSA. Details are to be agreed with the respective event organisers.
2. Members have to pay membership fees of the Association annually. The amount is determined by the General Assembly.
3. Members are legally responsible for the payment of possible membership taxation amounts.
4. Such members who do not meet their financial obligations in time automatically lose their rights to vote.

- **11 Rights and Obligations of Members**

1. All member organisations have the same rights and obligations.
2. Members can according to agreements and regulations use all facilities belonging to the association and can participate in all events.
3. Members agree to observe the following rules:

- Sled dog races can only be conducted with pedigree sled dogs which have the appropriate documentation/family tree from the F.C.I. or from a breeder recognised by the F.C.I.
- Members can participate in WSA events in accordance with regulations and conditions laid down for such an event.
- Members have to breed and train the dogs in a respectful manner and have to act in accordance with the regulations of international animal protection organisations.
- During events they have to behave in a friendly manner and appear according to fair-play criteria.
- They have to promote the objectives of the Association in the general interest.
- They have to meet their payment obligations to the Association and have to keep the Association updated as to the actual number of individual members within the organisation.
- They have to pass on all WSA information related to membership status, promptly and in writing to individual members. This information is also to be made public on the WSA website.

## • 12 The General Assembly (GA)

1. The General Assembly (GA) consists of representatives from the member federations and member organisations. These delegates are elected and sent by their respective associations. A transfer of voting rights is permissible within the

underlying guidelines. The GA is the decisive body of the Association. The General Assembly can make decisions without consideration for the actual number of participants.

2. These members have such voting rights corresponding to the number of members in their respective countries. These voting rights are as follows:

- |  |   |                          |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| - Members with less than 100 people        | - | 1 vote                   |
| - Members with 101 to 500 people           | - | 2 votes                  |
| - Members with 501 to 800 people           | - | 4 votes                  |
| - every further 100 people over 800 people | - | 1 vote (starting at 900) |

3. The GA is chaired by the Chairman, or in his absence the Vice Chairman or another member of the inner Board. The Assembly determines the chair if no Board member is present. During elections the GA chair has to be handed to an election committee for the duration of the election and temporary discussion. The election committee consists of 2 people. This committee takes over the chair of the GA until the Chairman is elected and supervises the secret election of the Board.

## • 13 Notice of a General Assembly / Proposals

1. The regular General Assembly/GA takes place once a year – preferably in June/July. The last date is the month of September. The GA is called by the Chairman. The notice has to be in writing and has to be made public on the WSA website accordingly.
2. An Extraordinary General Assembly of the Association has to be called when a minimum of 50% of members of the GA or 2/5 of the member Federations apply for such an Assembly. Such an application has to be submitted in writing to the Chairman clearly detailing the reasons for such an Extraordinary General Assembly. The Chairman is obliged to inform all Chair persons of the member associations and organisations of such an application.
3. The calling of an Extraordinary General Assembly has to take place at least 6 (six) weeks prior to the commencement of the General Assembly. During this time, until publication of the agenda, members have the opportunity to make proposals to the GA.
4. The agenda points to be dealt with during the General Assembly have to be published on the WSA website at least 3 (three) weeks prior to the commencement of the General Assembly and the member associations have to be informed of such an event in writing.
5. During the Assembly the Board can still introduce urgent proposals, the acceptance of which has to be decided by the General Assembly. The General Assembly also decides over additions to the agenda which were initiated at the
- 6.

Members' meeting. For the acceptance of such proposal a majority of 2/3 of the rendered valid votes is required.

1. Proposals for alteration of the Statutes cannot be made during the General Assembly.
2. Alteration to the Statutes, proposals for alteration to the established rules and regulations of the Association as well as alteration to the amount of membership

contribution are only possible if members have been issued, together with the agenda, the text of the newly proposed alteration to the Statutes and the text for the alteration to the established rules as well as the newly proposed amount of membership contribution.

#### • **14 The Executive Committee/ Extended Board**

1. The statutory Board (§ 26 Abs. 1BGB) consists of:

- Chairman
- Vice Chairman
- Director of Sport
- Secretary
- Treasurer

1. The Board represents the Association in and out of court (§ 26 BGB). Each member of the Board is entitled to be a sole representative of the Association. The election of the Statutory Board takes place

through a secret ballot. The positions of the Extended Board are elected in an open ballot (show of hands). A secret ballot is possible upon request. If requested the voting cards can be destroyed.

1. Internally the only people who can act are the Vice Chairman if the Chairman is unavailable, the Director of Sport if the Vice Chairman is unavailable, the Secretary if the Director of Sport is unavailable and the Treasurer only if all the other members of the Statutory Board are unavailable. All positions can be taken in connection with any other position within the Board.
1. A member of the Extended Board can keep his/her position in the committee even if he/she is not a delegate of the national organisation. In the event that a national organisation is excluded from WSA the respective members of the Extended Board have to withdraw from the Board within one week of the exclusion of their organisation.
1. The Executive Committee/Board is entitled to take legally binding decisions as long as at least 3 committee members are present. These decisions have to be unanimous.
1. If one member of the Extended Board resigns and gives up his/her function during the mandate, the Extended Board can elect a successor up until the next General Assembly. Such election has to be confirmed in the next General Assembly and is restricted to the mandate of the member who resigned.
1. The Chairman manages, runs and administers matters of business interest.
1. The Chairman summons the Extended Board once a year. Such a meeting should be held in connection with activities or events. All decisions taken during such a meeting have to be submitted to the General Assembly for approval.
1. Minutes are taken of such meetings and decisions of the Association Bodies. Such minutes have to be signed by the Chairman and have to be archived in the business domicile.
1. The Board can invite potential new members to every event. Such a member, however, cannot obtain an international title, but, nevertheless, such a potential new member can win an event. Exceptions hereby are the Associate individual members. Such individual members can win an event and gain the respective title.
1. Members of the Board have the right of access and participation in all gatherings or meetings of member federations or member organisations.

- **15 Decisions by the Executive Committee/Board/Extended Board**

1. The Board is the highest body of the Association. It decides in all matters, as long as the decision making falls in its areas of responsibility and not in that of the General Assembly/GA. The Board and/or other authorised WSA bodies should/can make their decisions by utilising modern means of communication (preferably email). The reports of the decision making (e-mails) are to be kept by the respective responsible person (internal business distributor).
2. The Board represents the Association vis a vis other authorities and vis a vis the public.
3. The Board can decide over a temporary associate membership as well as over other matters until a final decision is taken by the General Assembly/GA.
4. The Extended Board supervises all WSA events. A WSA race order is to be published and also to be placed on the WSA website.
5. The decisions of the Board and of the Extended Board adhere to the principle of majority with the exception of disqualification/exclusion rules in accordance with § 9 of this Statute.

- **16 Proposals, Priority Proposals, Voting Rights,**

#### **Decision Making Capacity**

1. All members possess equal proposal rights in accordance with the underlying Statute.
1. All proposals have to be made in writing latest 4 (four) weeks before the start of the General Assembly/GA to the Chairman and the business domicile. They have to be submitted in English and German, but in case of disputes only the German versions are valid.
1. All proposals which have not been submitted in time and proposals which result from a GA shall be considered as priority proposals. Such a priority proposal can only be voted upon if a majority of the GA decides to vote. Priority proposals aiming to dissolve an association or containing an alteration of the Statute are not permitted.

1. The General Assembly which is called/convened in accordance with the statute is entitled to take legally binding decisions, regardless of how many members with voting rights are present.

- **17 Decisions**

1. In the event of elections or proposals the General Assembly decides on the basis of the majority of rendered Yes and No votes. In the event of a tied-vote the Chairman has a casting vote.
1. Any alteration to the Statute, alterations of the aims and purposes of the WSA and/or their dissolution require a qualified majority of 2/3 of the legally binding casted votes.

- **18 Function of Members within the WSA**

1. Member federations and organisations are run and managed in accordance with their own statutes as long as these statutes do not contradict those of the WSA.
2. Members manage and run their own business affairs self-sufficiently and in accordance with their respective function.

- **19 General and Basic Financial Principles**

1. The Association designs and manages its budget in order to guarantee the realisation of its tasks.
1. All assets resulting from this budget together with all possible surpluses can only be utilised in accordance with the Statute.
1. The Treasurer has to present to the General Assembly each year a balanced budget relating to income and expenditure.

1. In the event that additional income or expenditure cannot be balanced within the total budget, the Treasurer presents to the General Assembly/GA a supplementary budget.

1. All budgets have to be sanctioned by the GA.

1. The Treasurer prepares annually a profit and loss account together with a balance sheet both of which have to be presented to the GA for approval.

1. The year end report and financial year end report are submitted to the General Assembly/GA for approval.

#### • **20 Control of the Financial Accounts**

1. The management of the business affairs of the Association are audited at the end of the business year and before the start of the General Assembly/GA by 2 (two) auditors. These auditors prepare a report on the audit of the financial year end, and on income and expenditure as well as on the budget situation. This report is to be submitted by the auditors to the GA. This report and the budget report by the Treasurer have to be approved by the General Assembly/GA. Only after such approval/ratification can the Executive Committee be discharged.

1. The auditors are elected by the General Assembly/GA for a period of 2 (two) years. Re-election is possible.

#### • **21 Disciplinary Actions of the Association**

1. WSA is entitled to take action against members and impose disciplinary actions within the Association if member organisations or their individual members do not respect the aims and common interests of the Association or because they

violate or ignore the Statute, rules or agreements of the Association (see also § 9 of this Statute).

1. WSA can impose the following disciplinary actions:



- Warning with financial penalty
- Reprimand/caution with financial penalty
- Exclusion
- Dismissal from a function
- Exclusion and/or banning of an organisation or of individual members of such an organisation from WSA events for a period of up to 24 months.
- Suspension of a member. For suspended members see the rules and regulations outlined in § 9.

1. The GA is responsible for the handling and imposing of such disciplinary actions within the Association. Disciplinary Actions are at first ordered by the Board in conjunction with the Race Judge Committee. They have to be, however, dealt with and confirmed at the next GA. Vetos against a preliminary order have no delaying effect. The decision of the GA is final.

1. The amount of the financial penalty is a minimum of 50 Euros with a maximum of 1000 Euros.

1. An exclusion can occur in particular:

- In case of harm to the good reputation and harm to the aims of the Association
- In case of serious and permanent ignoring or violation of the Statute of the Association as well as their agreements, decisions and/or rules.
- In case of an insult to members or honorary responsibly active officials/functionaries of WSA
- In case of unreasonable conduct not corresponding to the principle of fair play resulting from an event and/or at events which are organised by other organisations and through which WSA can be discredited.

## • **22 Procedure Rules**

1. If proceedings have been initiated, the accusations have to be submitted in writing to the accused. The accused can respond to those accusations in writing within 4 weeks. In case of a non-receipt of a response it is assumed that the accused does not want to respond to the accusation.

1. The proceeding has to be kept secret until its final conclusion. A proceedings file has to be established. Only general information is admitted which can be published exclusively and in agreement with the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

1. The proceeding is to be conducted in writing only until the next GA. The accused can apply for a verbal hearing in this GA. The costs arising from such an event to the accused are to be borne by the accused him/herself.
1. Decisions concerning the implementation of disciplinary actions are to be made according to the usual principle of majority voting. The voting in the GA is to be secret and the result is to be communicated to the accused.
1. At the latest 2 weeks after the GA the accused will receive information in writing as to what the disciplinary action against him/her will be, and what reasons have led to such action. The proceeding is henceforth concluded.

- **23 Dissolution of the Association**

1. The Association can only be dissolved through a resolution, which has been passed during a GA when at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the members including the members of the Extended Board are present and, in accordance with the Statute, have the

right to vote. A dissolution of the Association needs a  $\frac{2}{3}$  (two thirds) majority resolution.

1. After the dissolution, the Board has to conclude the current business affairs.
1. The GA decides at the same time with simple majority voting how to dispose of Association assets.
1. When the Association is dissolved or annulled or in the event of the decline of favourable tax benefits the assets of the Association fall to a body of public right or to a tax privileged body for charitable use for animal protection.

**Buchen-Hettingen/Germany**

**10<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

**Arno Steichler, Chairman WSA**