

STATUTES



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE ROLLER SPORTS

Reviewed and approved by FIRS Congress Feb.23rd, 2013 Rome
Fédération Internationale de Roller Sports – Founded in 1924 in Montreux



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FIRS Statutes

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Article 1 - Title, Recognitions, Headquarters and Official Languages

- (1) The name of the Federation shall be “Fédération Internationale de Roller Sports”
- (2) FIRS is the only governing body in the world for Roller Sports
- (3) FIRS is recognized by:
 - a)** the International Olympic Committee (IOC), whose rules FIRS already abides by.
 - b)** the International Sports Federations (SPORTACCORD)
 - c)** the International World Games Association (IWGA)
 - d)** the Pan American Sports Association (PASO)
 - e)** the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)
 - f)** It may also ask for the recognition by other international organizations.
- (4) The headquarters of FIRS shall be established in the President’s country of residence or in any other place proposed by him/her, as subsequently approved by the Executive Board (EB) and ratified by the Congress. Furthermore, the President may set up operational offices wherever deemed appropriate.
- (5) The official languages of FIRS are English and Spanish. In case of language discrepancies, the English version shall prevail.

Article 2 - Objectives

- (1) The main objectives of FIRS include:
 - a)** To promote and encourage the development of Roller Sports in all its possible forms all over the world.
 - b)** To promote sports free from doping.
 - c)** To promote and increase the international relations between the National Federations of Roller Sports and National and International Sport Organizations.
 - d)** To adopt uniform rules and regulations in the competitions of the different disciplines of Roller Sports.
 - e)** To organize World Championships and other international competitions.
 - f)** To increase the number of Roller Sports venues and facilities throughout the world.
- (2) FIRS acknowledges and recognizes the Statutes and the purposes of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the IOC anti-doping rules, the WADA CODE and the International Standards of the International Sports Federations (SPORTACCORD).
- (3) FIRS requires all its members to accept and recognize the Court of Arbitration for Sport in order to deal with the settlement of disputes. According to these Statutes, only the Federations lawfully member of FIRS shall have the right to appeal to the Court of Arbitration in seeking legal remedy against FIRS or any other Member Federation of FIRS.

- (4) The general and fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter shall be enforced, and no provisions of these Statutes and of the Regulations of FIRS shall be either in conflict with or depart from these principles.

Article 3 - Membership

- (1) Membership shall be open to National Federations and Associations, without any discrimination whatsoever based on race, religion and political affiliation or ideology. FIRS prefers to recognize only one National Federation\Association per country. Nevertheless, it will recognize additional Federations or Associations per country, provided that they manage other disciplines recognized by FIRS, but not present in the official member Federation.
- (2) To be accepted as FIRS member, Federations or Associations shall file a membership application to FIRS, including:
- I.* a copy of their Statutes
 - II.* A duly filled-in affiliation form
 - III.* The affiliation fee due
 - IV.* The recognition by one's national Sports Authority
- (3) The Executive Board has the power to authorize a provisional membership in case the requirements as per paragraph (2) are met. The provisional membership entitles new members to participate in sports activities. Conversely, the voting power is subject to the final ratification of membership by the Congress. After performing any necessary controls, the Executive Board will submit the application, equipped with its opinion, to the next Congress for ratification.
- (4) The Statutes and the Regulations of a National Federation or Continental Confederation shall not be in conflict with those of FIRS, which shall always prevail.
- (5) Statutes and Regulations of Continental Confederations must be approved by the Executive Board of FIRS.

Article 4 - Rights and duties of Member Federations

- (1) Member Federations of FIRS shall have the following:

RIGHTS

- a)* Participation in FIRS World Championships and competitions.
- b)* Recognition by the National Olympic Committee (NOC) and by all international sports organizations as the only Roller Sports governing body in one's country.
- c)* Voting right during FIRS Congresses.
- d)* Each National Federation may affiliate one or more disciplines of FIRS. As regards affiliated disciplines, it shall organize a National Championship and participate in the corresponding World Championships at least every 3 years.

The non-participation in World or Continental Championships of one discipline for 3 consecutive years shall entitle another sports organization of the same country to apply for the affiliation to FIRS as a Federation of such discipline.

- e)** To lodge an appeal against eventual sanctions by the Executive Board of FIRS within sixty (60) days as from the notification of the sanction

(2) Member Federations shall comply with the following:

DUTIES

- a)** To contribute to achieve the objectives of FIRS.
- b)** To comply with the decisions adopted by the bodies of FIRS.
- c)** To organize National Championships and participate in World Championships at least every three years. Failing which the entitlement as the sole governing body of the discipline in one's country will be lost.
- d)** To periodically report FIRS on one's activities.
- e)** To accept out-of-competition doping tests controlled by FIRS.
- f)** To pay the affiliation fees within the deadlines set.

(3) Any breach of FIRS duties and rules shall be punished - according to their severity - with the following sanctions:

- I.** Warning
- II.** Fine
- III.** Suspension
- IV.** Expulsion

Article 5 - Honorary Members

- (1) Upon appointment by the Executive Board, the Congress may award the title of "Honorary Member" of FIRS to anyone deserving such recognition on the basis of outstanding services provided in favor of Roller Sports. Such members may attend all Congresses and official functions of FIRS, without being entitled to any voting rights.

Article 6 - Governing Bodies of FIRS

(1) The governing bodies of FIRS include:

- a)** The Congress
- b)** The Executive Board
- c)** The President
- d)** The Executive Committee

All the elective offices of FIRS shall have a four-year term, except in the case of replacement or substitution during the terms set out in these Statutes, whose office shall lapse on the forthcoming elective Congress. Offices by appointment shall equally last four years, unless otherwise specified or determined by the bodies owning appointment powers.

Article 7 - The Organization Chart of FIRS



FIRS is organized as follows:

- a)** FIRS Secretary General
- b)** FIRS Secretariat
- c)** The International Technical Committees with voting rights in the Executive Board, namely:
 - CIC:** Speed
 - CIPA:** Figure Skating
 - CIRH:** Rink Hockey
 - CIRILH:** Inline Hockey
- d)** The International Technical Committees of other sports disciplines recognized by FIRS, but with no voting rights, include:
 - CISB:** Skateboarding
 - CIFS:** Freestyle
 - CIRD:** Roller Derby
 - CIRA:** Roller Alpine
- e)** The Athletes Commission
- f)** The Sports Medical Commission

Article 8 - The Ordinary Congress

- (1) The Congress is the supreme authority of FIRS.
- (2) The Congress shall meet at least once every two (2) years at a place and on a date decided by the Executive Board upon the President's proposal.
- (3) The Elective Congress shall be held every four (4) years.
- (4) The Official notice of the meeting shall be sent out at least four months before the date set.
- (5) An Agenda, drafted by the President, shall be sent at least two months before the Congress. Only the items included in the agenda shall be discussed, exception made for issues unknown three months before the Congress or occurred after such date. In both cases, new items may be considered only with the consent of at least two-thirds of the votes cast.
- (6) The agenda shall include:
 - a)* President's opening address.
 - b)* Appointment of scrutineers.
 - c)* Approval of the Minutes of the previous Congress.
 - d)* President's report.
 - e)* Vice Presidents' reports.
 - f)* Reports of the Chairmen of the International Technical Committees on the period between the previous and the present Congress.
 - g)* Secretary General's report and presentation of FIRS accounts.
 - h)* Auditor's written report.
 - i)* Ratification of the budget as agreed upon by the Executive Board.
 - j)* Ratification of memberships or resignations.
 - k)* Proposals concerning eventual amendments of the Statutes and By-Laws.
 - l)* Presentation of the candidates for FIRS Presidency and election of the President (when due).
 - m)* Presentation of the candidates for FIRS Vice-Presidency and election of the Vice President (when due).
 - n)* Presentation of the candidates as Chairmen of the 4 (four) Technical Committees with voting right (CIC, CIPA, CIRH, CIRILH).
 - o)* Ratification of the appointment of an Auditor made by the Executive Board (when due).
 - p)* Items duly submitted by Member Federations and/or by the Executive Board within the period set.
 - q)* Other urgent issues raised at the notification of the meeting (with the approval by two-thirds of those present owning voting rights).

The Congress may approve by simple majority a different order of the items in the agenda proposed by the President.

- (7) Before the opening of the Congress, the delegates of National Federations shall show their passport coinciding with the nationality of the represented Federation and deliver their credentials to the Secretary General.
- (8) Each National Federation shall be entitled to:
 - a)* One vote for being affiliated to FIRS.
 - b)* One additional vote for each of the disciplines in which it participated in a World Championship in the two years preceding the year of the FIRS Congress.
- (9) The delegates of National Federations or Associations with no outstanding accounts and that participated in one World Championship in the two years preceding the General Assembly shall be entitled to vote.
- (10) The quorum shall consist of delegates with voting rights from at least twenty-one (21) nations.
- (11) The Congress approves the FIRS Statutes, By-Laws and any related amendments.

Article 9 - The Extraordinary Congress

- (1) The Executive Board shall have the power to call an Extraordinary Congress whenever deemed necessary.
- (2) The Executive Board shall be bound to convene an Extraordinary Congress within twelve (12) months as from the date of receipt of a written notice by at least one third of full members with a minimum of twenty-one (21) nations with voting rights.
- (3) The issue to be tackled shall be included in the agenda drafted by the President, and no other business may be discussed.

Article 10 - The President

- (1) The President is the legal Representative of FIRS. He/She presides over all the meetings of the Congress, of the Executive Board and of the Executive Committee. In case of tie, he/she shall have the casting vote in all meetings of FIRS, and shall represent FIRS in legal matters.
- (2) The FIRS President:
 - a)* Is the only legal representative of FIRS.
 - b)* Presides over the Congress.
 - c)* Presides over the Executive Board.
 - d)* Presides over the Executive Committee.
 - e)* Appoints the members of the Technical Committees upon proposal of their Chairmen.
 - f)* Fulfils his/her mandate in collaboration with the Executive Board.
 - g)* He/She may take urgent decisions that shall be subsequently ratified by the Executive Board.

Article 11 - The Executive Board

- (1) The members of the Executive Board are in charge of the governing body of FIRS and shall not represent the interests of their Member Federations. They only report to the Congress.
- (2) The Executive Board, after hearing the Technical Committees, decides on the location, the date and the venue of World Championships and of other international competitions.
- (3) The members of FIRS Executive Board include:

The President

The First Vice President

Five Vice Presidents who shall be the “*de jure*” Presidents of each Continental Confederation recognized by FIRS :

- **ACRS** (African Confederation of Roller Sports)
- **CERS** (Confédération Européenne de Roller Skating)
- **CARS** (Asia Confederation of Roller Sports)
- **OCRS** (Oceania Confederation of Roller Sports)
- **CPRS** (Pan American Confederation of Roller Skating)

The Chairmen of International Technical Committees: CIC, CIPA, CIRH, CIRILH

The Athletes’ Representative, elected by the Athletes’ Commission

- (4) Members participating in the Executive Board with no voting rights:

The Secretary General

The Vice Secretary General

The Chairman of the Medical Commission

The Chairmen of the other sport disciplines recognized by FIRS:

CISB, CIFS, CIRD, CIRA

- (5) The first Vice-President of FIRS will be elected by the FIRS Congress. The office as First Vice-President shall be incompatible with the position of Continental Vice-President. He/She shall assist the President in all his/her functions and will replace him/her whenever necessary. He/She shall attend the meetings of the Congress and of the Executive Board.
- (6) All the offices of the members of the Executive Board are incompatible with other offices within the Technical Committees.
- (7) The five Continental Vice-Presidents shall be elected by the Congresses of each Continental Confederation held every four years. For the election to take place, each Continental Confederation shall include at least five (5) member Federations. If such number is not reached, the Executive Board of FIRS may appoint a commissioner coming from such Continent. They will have similar responsibilities as the First Vice-President, and shall permanently coordinate the Executive Board of FIRS as well as Continental Confederations.
- (8) FIRS shall supervise the legitimacy and correctness under which Continental Assemblies are held, and it may also declare its lapse in case of severe and evident irregularities.
- (9) The Athletes’ Representative within the Executive Board shall be elected by FIRS’ Athletes Commission. Such Representative may be either a woman or a man and will have voting rights. A deputy from the opposite gender shall also be elected.

- (10) The Executive Board shall meet at least once every two years, besides on any other occasions deemed necessary by the President, or upon request of five members of the Executive Board. Five members with voting rights shall represent the quorum. The Executive Board may convene electronic meetings that shall be deemed as lawfully held; the Executive Board may also vote through videoconferencing, e-mail, fax or teleconferencing systems.

Article 12 - Vacant positions in the Executive Board

In the event of a vacant position in the Executive Board between Congresses (due to death, incapacity or resignation), the following procedure shall be followed:

- 1) The President will be automatically replaced by the First Vice-President.
- 2) The First Vice-President will be replaced by a Continental Vice-President elected by the Executive Board.
- 3) The remaining Vice-Presidents will not be replaced until the next Congress. The Chairman of the Technical Committees will be replaced by a person appointed by the FIRS President.
- 4) In case of election of a new President during the ongoing mandate, all the existing elective offices shall remain in force until the next Congress.
- 5) In case of replacement of the First Vice-President only, the vacant position shall be filled on the occasion of the next Congress, and the term of office of the new First Vice-President shall expire on the expiration of the President's term of office.

Article 13 - The Executive Committee

- a) The Executive Committee includes the following members:

FIRS President
FIRS First Vice-President
CIC Chairman
CIPA Chairman
CIRH Chairman
CIRILH Chairman
Athletes' Representative
FIRS Secretary General (with no voting rights)

- b) The Executive Committee shall be in charge of carrying out the institutional activities of FIRS, and it will meet whenever deemed necessary. The Executive Committee may convene electronic meetings that shall be deemed as lawfully held; the Executive Board may also vote through videoconferencing, e-mail, fax or teleconferencing systems. Accommodation and travelling expenses shall be charged to FIRS.
- c) Any decision taken by the Executive Committee shall be ratified by the Executive Board during its next meeting.

Article 14 - The Secretary General

The Secretary General and the Vice Secretary General shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Board. They may be remunerated. They shall have no voting rights. Their main tasks shall include secretariat and office activities.

The General Secretariat shall deal with the coordination of FIRS headquarters and of Technical Committees. Upon mandate of the President, either the Secretary General or the Vice-Secretary General shall act as FIRS treasurer.

Article 15 - Membership Fees

- (1) All membership fees shall be approved by the Congress upon proposal of the Executive Board and are payable annually in US dollars to FIRS Headquarters.
- (2) Annual membership fees in addition to the fees for each discipline performed shall be due every year within the month of January.

Article 16 - Resignation of Members

Any member wishing to resign from FIRS shall send a written notice before January 1st; failing this, such member shall pay the membership fees due for the current and past year/s.

Article 17 - Expulsion of Members

- (1) If, according to the Executive Board, the conduct of any member is deemed prejudicial to the interests of FIRS, the Executive Board shall have the power to request such member to resign. If the member so requested does not resign within two months, the Executive Board shall have the power to temporarily suspend his/her membership rights and ask for his/her expulsion by the Congress.
- (2) Those members whose annual fees are not paid by June 30th of the current year, or who have had other financial obligations to FIRS for more than 180 days, shall be informed of the automatic suspension of their membership. They shall not be granted any voting right as members of FIRS until their dues are entirely paid. Furthermore, the Congress may decide to exclude them from membership, if deemed necessary.

Article 18 - Candidacy as President, First Vice-President and Chairmen of Technical Committees

The candidacy as President, First Vice-President and Chairmen of the 4 (four) Technical Committees with voting rights (CIC, CIPA, CIRH, CIRILH) shall be proposed by their affiliated National Federations with no pending dues and with the full consent of the candidate.

The names of the candidates for FIRS Presidency, First Vice-Presidency and for the Chairmanship of the Technical Committees with voting rights (CIPA, CIRH, CIC, CIRILH) shall be submitted to the Secretary General in writing at least 30 days before the Congress. A list of all candidates shall be available to delegates.

Article 19 - Voting procedures

- (1) The voting for FIRS President, First Vice-President and Chairmen of the 4 (four) Technical Committees with voting with voting rights (CIPA , CIRH, CIC, CIRILH) shall be made separately by secret ballot.
- (2) Any other decisions shall be made through open vote (by showing voting cards).
- (3) In case of nominal voting, nations shall be called in English and in alphabetical order.
- (4) All matters shall be decided by majority of votes, exception made for the following issues, which shall require at least two-thirds of the votes cast:
 - a) Amendments to the Statutes.
 - b) Additions to the agenda, only allowed in Ordinary Congresses.
 - c) Expulsion of a member.
 - d) Dissolution of FIRS.
- (5) In the event of a tie, the President shall exercise his/her casting vote.

Article 20 - Amendments to the Statutes

- (1) Amendments to the Statutes shall be decided by a two-thirds majority of the votes represented in the Congress.
- (2) The members who wish to propose any amendments shall notify in writing the Secretary General at least three months before the Congress. The modifications proposed shall be submitted by each member Federation with the approval of at least other four (4) Federations or of the Executive Board.
- (3) All the modifications proposed shall be sent to FIRS members two months before the Congress by the Secretary General, together with the agenda of the Congress.

Article 21 - International Technical Committees

- (1) The International Technical Committees are following:

• COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE COURSE	CIC
• COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE PATINAGE ARTISTIQUE	CIPA
• COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE RINK HOCKEY	CIRH
• COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE ROLLER IN LINE HOCKEY	CIRILH
• COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE SKATEBOARDING	CISB
• COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE FREESTYLE	CIFS
• COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE ROLLER DERBY	CIRD
• COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE ROLLER ALPINE	CIRA

- (2) Each discipline shall be managed by a Technical Committee made up of a Chairman and up to four (4) members owning the suitable technical requirements, proposed by the Chairman and appointed by the President of FIRS.
- (3) The Chairmen of the Technical Committees CIC, CIPA, CIRH, CIRILH will be elected every four years during FIRS Ordinary Elective Congress upon proposal of their national Federations and according to Art. 4 of these Statutes.
- (4) The offices of the Technical Committees shall be located at FIRS headquarters
- (5) The Technical Committees shall set out their technical rules, being understood that such rules shall not be in conflict with these Statutes and with FIRS Regulations.
- (6) These rules shall be approved by the Executive Board of FIRS.

Article 22 - Financial Year - Auditor

- (1) The financial year of FIRS shall end on the thirty-first (31) of December.
- (2) A Chartered Public Accountant (CPA) shall be appointed by the Executive Board. The CPA shall submit to the Executive Board and to each Congress a report annexed to the balance sheets relating to the previous financial period, in compliance with Financial Regulations.
- (3) Every year FIRS shall submit its balance sheets to the appointed Auditor no later than 90 days following December 31st. The Auditor shall draft a Balance Sheet report within four (4) months as from the closing of the financial year, and will send it to the Executive Board. The financial report shall be mailed to all FIRS National Federations having no outstanding debts before convening the Congress.
- (4) The Auditor shall read the financial report to the Congress.

Article 23 - Federation Funds

- (1) The funds collected and managed by FIRS International Technical Committees shall be evidenced in the accounts of FIRS on an annual basis.
- (2) The funds of FIRS shall consist of:
 - a) Admission fees and annual membership fees.
 - b) Donations and contributions from public or private subjects.
 - c) Sale of television rights as well as other FIRS rights.
 - d) Printing, publishing, distribution, publication and dissemination, both one's own and on behalf of third parties, of books, magazines, videos; any activity in whatever way connected to the above, including the production as well as the audio and video recording on any media support and the dissemination, distribution and sale of publishing products.
 - e) To achieve the Statutes purposes, FIRS may:

- Issue sureties, endorsements and guarantees of any kind, and carry out any movable and immovable, industrial and commercial operations connected either directly or indirectly to such management.
- Acquire interests and investments in other companies or trading companies both directly and indirectly, provided that the possession of such interests does not represent its main or exclusive activity, and that it is not in conflict with the regulations in force.

Article 24 - Confederations

(1) FIRS recognizes as its integral parts one Continental Confederation for each Continent:

AFRICA
AMERICA
ASIA
EUROPE
OCEANIA

(2) The rules and regulations governing the Confederation shall comply with the principles of FIRS, and copies of all the proposed rules and regulations shall be submitted to the Executive Board for approval. Any subsequent changes shall be approved in advance by the Executive Board.

(3) The technical Rules of FIRS disciplines issued by Continental Confederations shall be in line with the rules issued by International Technical Committees.

(4) The President and the Executive Board of a Confederation are entirely liable before the Executive Board for the management of their Confederation, in accordance with the approved rules and regulations.

(5) A report on the activities of the Confederation shall be sent by its President to FIRS on an annual basis.

(6) All the Members of FIRS shall be entitled to be members of their Continental Confederation after fulfilling all financial obligations.

(7) Duties and responsibilities of Confederations:

- a)** Assist FIRS to achieve its objectives within the area of the Confederation.
- b)** Organize Confederation Championships under the rules of FIRS Technical Committees.
- c)** Provide any possible support for the development of Member Federations within their area.
- d)** Recognized Confederations may collect the fees from their members upon the approval of FIRS.
- e)** To accept members already recognized by FIRS in the Confederation (with the approval of FIRS Executive Board) outside of one's geographical area.

Article 25 - Other International Organizations

FIRS may recognize in specific geographic areas - and for reasons of particular need - other organizations aiming to promote and develop Roller Sports, provided that they accept the Statutes and the Regulations of FIRS, and comply with the conditions set in article 24 above. These organizations will be allowed to sign agreements or contracts with FIRS, but shall not be represented in the Bodies of FIRS.

Article 26 - Dissolution

If during a Congress a special resolution is proposed and approved to terminate the activity of FIRS, a sufficient amount of FIRS funds shall be kept to settle all outstanding debts, and any surplus shall be equally distributed to member National Federations, National Associations or Confederations, on the basis of the number of disciplines they include.

Article 27 - Temporary Provisions

These Statutes enter into force immediately after their approval. Elective offices remain in place until the end of the mandates as per the previous Statutes.

These Statutes were approved by the Congress held in Frankfurt on the 7th of April 1979, amended by the Congress held in Frankfurt on 11th September 1982, as subsequently amended by the Extraordinary Congress in Fort Worth, Texas, on the 5th of March 1983 and subsequently amended by the Extraordinary Congress in Porto, on the 24th of July 1991. These Statutes were subsequently amended by the Ordinary Congress in Mar del Plata, on the 30th November 1996 and by the Ordinary Congress in Zell am See on 30th June 2000, and by the Extraordinary Congress in Rochester on August 1st, 2002 and by the Extraordinary Congress in Rome on November 24th, 2005 and by the Ordinary Congress in Portimao on December 4th 2010 and by the Ordinary Congress held in Rome on February 23rd, 2013.

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FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE ROLLER SPORTS