



# **STATUTES**

of the

European Non-Governmental  
Sports Organisation

**ENGSO**

Adopted by the ENGSO General Assembly  
Vienna, 15 June, 2024

**STATUTES**  
**of the**  
**EUROPEAN NON-GOVERNMENTAL**  
**SPORTS ORGANISATION**  
**(ENGSO)**

**I – GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**ART 1 – The name and registered address**

- 1.1 The name of the organisation shall be the “European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation” (hereinafter called ENGSO).
- 1.2 The organisation has an unlimited duration.
- 1.3 The headquarters and registered office of ENGSO shall be in Stockholm, in the House of Sports, Idrottens hus, Box 11016, 10061 Stockholm, SWEDEN.  
  
Its headquarters may be transferred to another country of the European Union pursuant to the simple decision of the Executive Committee.
- 1.4 The administrative seat of ENGSO will be based in the organisation of the Secretary General in office. If the Secretary General is employed by ENGSO, the office may be based in any member organisation, as decided by the Executive Committee.

**ART 2 – The vision and mission of ENGSO**

- 2.1 The vision of ENGSO is “grassroots sport for stronger communities”.
- 2.2 The mission of ENGSO is to represent, develop and advocate for voluntary-based sport in Europe.
- 2.3 ENGSO is the European Sports NGO and the leading voice for voluntary-based grassroots sport in Europe. ENGSO exists to be a leader in the sports political field, a strong networking organisation for sport in Europe and a counterpart for European governmental institutions in order to fulfil its vision and mission, guided by its values – democracy, equality, inclusion, sustainability, integrity and education.

### **ART 3 – The aims of ENGSO are:**

- 3.1 To provide a platform for exchange of knowledge and information.
- 3.2 To discuss and lobby on current sport political issues and other policy topics where sport can make a positive contribution to society.
- 3.3 To seek common positions on sports issues and publicise them.
- 3.4 To strengthen the co-operation with other sport bodies and to develop other partnerships that help fulfil ENGSO's vision and mission.
- 3.5 To contribute to intergovernmental sports co-operation, and represent the principal non-governmental organisation position within other European sports related meetings.
- 3.6 To develop and support ENGSO Youth.
- 3.7 To fight inequality, discrimination, violence, abuse and hate in sport and through sport, with a specific focus to empower groups such as children, women and minorities, through the diversification of sport and the promotion of ENGSO's values: democracy, equality, inclusion, sustainability, integrity and education.

### **ART 4 – Official emblem and language**

- 4.1 The official emblem of ENGSO is a blue arc outlined by a white stripe along the lower edge of the arc, a yellow five-pointed star under which the acronym ENGSO is inscribed in white.
- 4.2 The official language of ENGSO is English.

### **ART 5 – Members**

- 5.1 There are two categories of ENGSO membership – Full and Associated.
- 5.2 Full members of ENGSO shall be:
  - A) National Confederations of Sport
  - B) National Olympic Committees
  - C) National Paralympic CommitteesAssociated members of ENGSO shall be:
  - D) European Sport Federations.
  - E) European Organisations related to sport.

F) National organisations/federations based and registered in Europe and related to grassroots sports.

- 5.3 There could be more than one full member from each country. An ENGSO full member shall be an organisation that best represents voluntary-based grassroots sport and the civil society of sport in that country. Other organisations may apply for associate membership.
- 5.4 Associated members are those organisations who have sport and recreation at the heart of their activities, but they are not the lead agency for sport in their country. They are constituted as 'not for profit'. Specific sport committees and governmental sport departments or entities are not eligible.
- 5.5 Membership requests are subject to approval by the Executive Committee. All proposals by the ExCom for membership of ENGSO are to be ratified by the General Assembly. Such admission requires a simple majority of the members attending and voting at such General Assembly.
- 5.6 Applications for membership shall be made in writing to the Secretary General.
- 5.7 Every Member shall be held to have agreed to be bound by these Statutes and shall be bound to further of their ability the aims, objectives and interests of ENGSO.
- 5.8 Members shall bear the cost of transport and accommodation for themselves and the host Member shall bear the cost of providing all facilities relative to the General Assembly, The Executive Committee, The Youth Committee or Assembly and Committees or Working Group meetings.
- 5.9 A Member who desires to withdraw from ENGSO shall give notice in writing to the Secretary General of such intention and upon receipt of such notice shall cease to be a Member.
- 5.10 The Executive Committee shall decide whether a Member no longer fulfils the conditions which had qualified it for membership. Such decisions are to be ratified by the General Assembly.
- 5.11 Associated members have no voting rights.

## **ART 6 – Membership Fees**

- 6.1 Members shall pay a membership fee each year prior to the annual General Assembly.
- 6.2 Only those Members whose fees are current shall be entitled to a vote at any meeting.

- 6.3 The Executive Committee may decide on the loss of membership where a Member has failed to pay its membership fee for two consecutive years.

## **II – FUNCTIONING**

### **ART 7 – Officially Constituted Bodies are:**

- 7.1
- A) the General Assembly
  - B) the Executive Committee
  - C) the Youth Assembly
  - D) the Youth Committee
  - E) the Equality Within Sport Committee
  - F) other Committees and Working Groups
  - G) the Auditors

### **ART 8 – The General Assembly**

- 8.1 The General Assembly is the supreme authority of ENGSO. It is comprised of delegates appointed by all Current Members.
- 8.2 The functions of the General Assembly are to:
- A) consider and review the aims and objectives of ENGSO
  - B) consider and review the aims and objectives of the Youth Assembly
  - C) approve all annual reports
  - D) approve all annual accounts of the period under report, having considered the statement of the auditors regarding the validity of the accounts
  - E) elect nominees to fill any vacancies in the Executive Committee
  - F) confirm the appointment of the auditors
  - G) approve the membership fee for the coming year
  - H) adopt the activity programmes
  - I) make modifications where necessary to the Statutes (requires a two thirds majority of those present)
  - J) debate all questions or proposals submitted by Members, the Executive Committee and the Youth Committee.
- 8.3 A General Assembly is held each year.

- 8.4 An Extraordinary General Assembly will be held if so decided by the General Assembly or the Executive Committee, or if 40% of current Members request such a meeting. The meeting shall be held within three months from such a decision or request.

## **ART 9 – General Assembly Notice**

- 9.1 A calling notice for the General Assembly shall be sent out to each Member at least forty-five days before the date of the meeting.
- 9.2 Proposals from Members relative to the agenda and nominations for election must have reached the Secretary General at least thirty days before the date of the General Assembly.
- 9.3 The agenda and all other documentation shall be sent to each Member at least twenty days before the date of the General Assembly.
- 9.4 Every notice calling a General Assembly shall specify the day and hour of the meeting, and the place of the meeting or, under exceptional conditions, if the meeting shall be organised virtually. If other than routine business is to be deliberated (see art. 8.2 A to J), the notice shall specify the general nature of such business and if any resolution is proposed as an Extraordinary or Special Resolution, the notice shall contain a statement to that effect.
- A calling notice for the Extraordinary General Assembly shall contain only one topic on the agenda and should be sent out at least 45 days before the date of the meeting.
- 9.5 Observers without votes may be invited to the General Assembly by the Executive Committee.

## **ART 10 – General Assembly Procedures**

- 10.1 The President with the consent of the General Assembly at which a quorum is present may adjourn a meeting from time to time and from place to place, but no business shall be transacted at any such meeting other than that which might have been discussed at the adjourned meeting.
- 10.2 At all General Assemblies a resolution put to the vote shall be decided by a show of hands of the delegates present and entitled to vote, unless before or upon declaration of the result of the show of hands a poll (secret ballot) be demanded by the President or by at least ten delegates present. Unless a poll is demanded the President shall declare the resolution carried unanimously, or by a particular majority, or lost, or not carried by a particular majority and an entry to that effect shall be made in the minutes of the General Assembly as conclusive evidence

without proof of the number or proportion of votes in favour or against.

- 10.3 The President shall decide the time, place and manner of any poll that is demanded. No poll shall be demanded on any proposal for adjournment.
- 10.4 In the case of an equality of votes whether on show of hands or a poll, the President shall have a second or casting vote.
- 10.5 Every Member through its nominated delegate shall be entitled to be present, to speak and to have one vote at any General Assembly, with the exception described in 5.11. Any member organisation shall be entitled to nominate in writing to the Secretary General an alternative delegate where the appointed delegate is unable to attend.
- 10.6 When a Member appoints an alternative delegate from their own organisation, that delegate shall have full voting rights.
- 10.7 The decisions of the General Assembly are based upon the simple majority of current, present and represented members.
- 10.8 The General Assembly shall appoint two members to conduct the count for the election of ExCom Officers and ExCom members.
- 10.9 The General Assembly may only vote on proposals or resolutions if there is a quorum of at least a third of the Members plus one who are current, present and represented.
- 10.10 Each Member shall have one vote, although each delegation can include up to a maximum of three delegates. Only the officially appointed Delegate may vote.
- 10.11 All decisions taken by the General Assembly are effective immediately.

## **ART 11 – The Executive Committee**

- 11.1 The Executive Committee is comprised of between 8-10 persons: the 3 ExCom Officers, the 4–6 ExCom members and the Chair of the Youth Committee. The Chair of the EWS Committee has observer status in the ExCom.
- 11.2 Individuals elected to the Executive Committee by the General Assembly are elected for a period of 4 years (the Term).
- 11.3 The Executive Committee should reflect the diverse community within which it operates. In order to provide as wide a vision as possible, it is desirable that:
  - A) the ExCom Officers and ExCom Members come from different countries

- B) the Executive Committee should include different genders, with minimum representation of 3 men and 3 women
- 11.4 Candidates may only be nominated by a member organisation.
- 11.5 The ExCom Officers may serve on the Executive Committee for a maximum of 12 years, including their term(s) of office as an ExCom Member and as an ExCom Officer. The exception to this rule is the President who can serve for up to two mandates as President (8 years) plus two terms as an ExCom member, to a maximum of 16 years. ExCom Members may serve for a maximum of 8 years.
- 11.6 The mid-term resignation of an ExCom Officer or ExCom Member can be executed by written notice to the Secretary General, signed by the respective ExCom Officer or ExCom Member or by the legal representative of the ENGSO Member that nominated them as a candidate. The resignation shall take place with immediate effect.
- 11.7 Where an ENGSO member wishes to nominate a replacement for a resigned ExCom Member, Treasurer or Vice President as at 11.6, the Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt the nominated candidate until next General Assembly.
- 11.8 The Executive Committee can appoint staff to undertake supporting functions.
- 11.9 The Executive Committee are obliged to respect and follow the Code of conduct for ENGSO Executive Committee.

## **ART 12 – Election of ExCom Officers and ExCom members to the Executive Committee**

- 12.1 Election of ExCom Officers shall be by secret ballot at a General Assembly except where the number of nominations is equal to the number of vacancies, in which case it may be by a show of hands if it is a unanimous request of the General Assembly.
- 12.2 Where an election takes place for a single office the result shall be by a simple majority.
- 12.3 Where there are two or more vacancies then the candidates with the highest and second highest number of votes shall be elected. Where there is an equal number of votes for the second, third and succeeding candidates, a second round of voting shall take place in order to select the second place and any subsequent places.
- 12.4 Where an ExCom Officer or ExCom member is elected to fill a mid-term vacancy (where the 4 years term has not been completed), they shall serve for the remainder of that term,



although such partial term shall not count against their entitled consecutive terms as defined in art. 11.5 herein.

### **ART 13 – Powers and Duties of the Executive Committee**

- 13.1 The Executive Committee shall meet, either virtually or physically, at least four times a year. Calling notices, agendas and discussion papers shall be sent at least seven days before the date of the meeting.
- 13.2 Five persons elected or co-opted to the Executive Committee shall represent a quorum able to take decisions. The President shall always have a second casting vote.
- 13.3 The Executive Committee is responsible for:
  - A) execution of decisions taken by the General Assembly
  - B) approvement of the anticipated budget for the following year
  - C) administration and running of ENGSO
  - D) setting up of committees and working groups and appointment of their Chair and members
  - E) adoption of internal regulations
  - F) ENGSO financial activities and accounts.

(No regulation made by ENGSO in the General Assembly shall invalidate any previous action of the Executive Committee as this would have been valid if such regulation had not been made.)

### **ART 14 – The ExCom Members Duties**

- 14.1 The President shall:
  - A) control, lead and guide the work of ENGSO
  - B) represent ENGSO with all legal rights and duties, alongside the Secretary General
  - C) preside over the meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee
  - D) sign the minutes of the General Assembly
  - E) be signatory to the annual report, annual accounts, and financial reports
  - F) be authorised to sign any contract approved by the Executive Committee
  - G) co-sign with the Secretary General all modifications adopted by the General Assembly.

14.2 The Vice President shall:

- A) assist the President in their duties
- B) act on behalf of the President in an official capacity as required, at which time they act with all the authority of the President
- C) be able and willing to succeed the President if so nominated

14.3 The Treasurer shall:

- A) be responsible for preparing the Annual Accounts for approval by the Executive Committee before presentation to the General Assembly
- B) produce the annual budget for approval by the Executive Committee before presentation to the General Assembly
- C) liaise with the Auditors in aspects relating to the annual accounts
- D) provide the Executive Committee with an updated financial report at every meeting

## **ART 15 – Secretary General**

The Secretary General is an employed position.

- A) The Secretary General is the leader of the ENGSO Secretariat.
- B) The Secretary General is responsible for the management of the operations and day-to-day business of ENGSO and shall follow up and implement the decisions made by the executive board.

Further details on the responsibilities of the Secretary General are formally described in the written instructions given by the executive board.

The Secretary General has the right to speak and to present proposals at the executive board meetings and to speak at the ENGSO General Assembly, but has no voting rights.

## **ART 16 – Honorary President – Honorary Members – Honour Members**

Upon the proposal of the Executive Committee, the General Assembly may nominate as Honorary President a former ENGSO President who has rendered exceptional services to ENGSO. The Honorary President has the right to offer their advice.

Any ENGSO ExCom Officer or ExCom member who retires after serving the ENGSO for at least ten years and having rendered exceptional services to it may, upon the proposal of the ENGSO ExCom, be nominated by the ENGSO General Assembly as an honorary member of the ENGSO ExCom.

Upon the proposal of the ENGSO ExCom, the General Assembly may nominate as honour members eminent personalities from outside the ENGSO who have rendered particularly outstanding services to ENGSO.

The Honorary President, honorary members and honour members are nominated for life. They do not have the right to vote, nor are they eligible for any ENGSO ExCom office. Their status may be withdrawn by decision of the General Assembly.

## **ART 17 – Finance**

- 17.1 The financial year shall begin on January 1<sup>st</sup> and end on December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- 17.2 The resources of ENGSO are derived from:
  - A) membership fees
  - B) all forms of public or private assistance accepted by the Executive Committee or the General Assembly as benefits the aims and objectives of ENGSO.
- 17.3 Every year the Executive Committee approves the annual accounts and the anticipated annual budget.
- 17.4 ENGSO can contribute to the travel and accommodation costs of elected and appointed representatives.

## **ART 18 – The Annual Accounts**

- 18.1 The accounts of ENGSO shall be audited by a firm of external auditors.
- 18.2 Their report shall be submitted to the General Assembly along with the ENGSO accounts for the preceding year.

- 18.3 The General Assembly shall confirm their appointment each year.

## **ART 19 – ENGSO Youth (The Youth Assembly and Youth Committee)**

- 19.1 ENGSO Youth is the independent youth body of ENGSO. The Youth Assembly and Youth Committee represent the ENGSO Youth.
- 19.2 ENGSO Youth has the same member organisations as ENGSO. ENGSO Youth represents the interests of youth under the age of 35 within ENGSO.
- 19.3 ENGSO Youth shall operate in conformity with the ENGSO Regulations.
- 19.4 ENGSO Youth acknowledges the primacy of the ENGSO Statutes.
- 19.5 ENGSO Youth shall be governed by their Standing Orders.
- 19.6 It reports to the Executive Committee and to the General Assembly.
- 19.7 The ENGSO Youth is independently responsible for the operative handling of the finances. The Executive Committee is responsible for the financial viability of ENGSO Youth.
- 19.8 The Youth Assembly shall meet every year in conjunction with the ENGSO General Assembly.
- 19.9 Each current ENGSO Member may send two delegates representing different genders to the Youth Assembly. All such delegates must be under 35 years of age.
- 19.10 Proposals to the Youth Assembly may be made by current ENGSO Members, the ExCom and the Youth Committee.
- 19.11 An Extraordinary Meeting of the Youth Assembly shall take place if requested by the Youth Committee, the ExCom or 40% of current ENGSO Members.
- 19.12 The Chair, Vice Chair and members of the Youth Committee are elected by the Youth Assembly.
- 19.13 The Youth Committee is responsible for:
- A) developing the ENGSO policy in the field of children and youth and other priority policy areas of ENGSO Youth, including finding the financial resources for this objective.
  - B) performing such tasks and duties as may from time to time be requested by the Executive Committee;
  - C) developing relationships with the European youth and children's organisations.

## **ART 20 – The Equality Within Sport Committee**

- 20.1 ENGSO EWS is the equality committee of ENGSO.
- 20.2 ENGSO EWS shall operate in conformity with the ENGSO Regulations.
- 20.3 ENGSO EWS shall be governed by their Standing Orders.
- 20.4 It reports to the Executive Committee
- 20.5 Proposals to the EWS Committee may be made by current ENGSO Members, the ExCom and the Youth Committee.
- 20.6 The Chair and members of EWS are selected by the Executive Committee. In addition, the EPC and EOC have representation on the Committee and a member of the ENGSO ExCom will also be on the Committee.
- 20.7 The EWS Committee is responsible for:
  - A) developing ENGSO policy in the field of equality including finding the financial resources for this objective;
  - B) performing such tasks and duties as may from time to time be requested by the Executive Committee;
  - C) organising European Equality and Sport conferences/seminars/forums as appropriate;
  - D) developing relationships with European equality agencies.

## **III – MODIFICATIONS – LITIGATIONS – DISSOLUTION**

### **ART 21 – Modifications of Statutes**

Any amendment, modification or deletion of these Statutes shall require a majority of the current Members present or represented at an Extraordinary General Assembly convened for that purpose.

### **ART 22 – Treatment of Litigations**

- 22.1 Any and all litigations between members or between a member and ENGSO shall be settled in an amicable way.
- 22.2 Any and all litigations between members or between a member and ENGSO that cannot be settled amicably, shall be submitted to internal arbitration.
  - 22.2.1 Internal arbitration shall mean an Arbitration Council to be constituted of three members.

- 22.2.2 Arbitration Council shall be constituted for each and every litigation.
- 22.2.3 Each party in litigation shall appoint one member, while the third “neutral” member shall be appointed by the ENGSO Executive Committee.
- 22.2.4 The decision of the Arbitration Council shall be made by majority votes in written. The decision of the Arbitration Council shall be final.
- 22.3 Any and all litigations between members or between a member and ENGSO that cannot be settled by internal arbitration, shall be submitted to the arbitration of the Court of Arbitration in Sports (CAS) of LAUSANNE to be resolved definitively in accordance with the Code of Sports-Related Arbitration..

### **ART 23 – Dissolution or Winding up**

- 23.1 Dissolution or winding up of ENGSO may be proposed by the Executive Committee or the General Assembly.
- 23.2 Such decision will be the responsibility of an Extraordinary General Assembly at which two thirds of those in attendance vote in favour of the dissolution.
- 23.3 Extraordinary General Assembly shall appoint one or more receivers and determine their powers.
- 23.4 Should there remain after satisfaction of all debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of ENGSO, but shall be given or transferred to some organisation or organisations having objectives of a similar nature to ENGSO and which prohibit the distribution of its income and property to an extent at least as great as is imposed on ENGSO. Such institutions to be determined before the time of dissolution and if effect cannot be given to such provision such property shall be disposed of at the direction of the Executive Committee for charitable purposes.

## Annex to the Amended Statutes 2024

### Definitions and meanings

In these Statutes the words shall bear the meaning shown if not inconsistent with the subject or context.

#### **WORDS**

#### **MEANING**

ENGSO	the previously named organisation
The Statutes	these Statutes and the regulations of ENGSO from time to time in force
The Executive Committee	the Executive Committee for the time being of ENGSO
ExCom Officers	the Officers of ENGSO are President, Vice President and Treasurer
ExCom Members	individuals not being Officers who serve on the Executive Committee
Co-optee	a person appointed by a committee seeking their specialist knowledge, or a person filling a mid-term vacancy until the next General Assembly
NGO	an autonomous, voluntary, non-profit distributing sports organisation and/or institution which is independent from the Government of their respective country and whose elections and decisions are taken in a democratic manner
Full Member	a Member organisation of ENGSO being a European National Sports Confederation or National Olympic or Paralympic Committee where they are the national umbrella organisation for sports
Associated Member	Associated members are those organisations who have sport and recreation at the heart of their activities, but they are not the lead agency for sport in their country. They are constituted as 'not for profit'.
European Organisation	an organisation with a local, regional, national, European or global scope, based in Europe

Member	Full Member or Associated Member
Current	within the present financial year of ENGSO
Delegate	an individual nominated by a Member
The General Assembly	the supreme authority of ENGSO, comprised of delegates appointed by current paid up Members
ENGSO Youth	the youth organisation of ENGSO
ENSGO EWS	the equality in sport committee
Youth Assembly	comprised of delegates under 35 years of age appointed by current paid up Members of ENGSO
Youth Committee	a permanent committee working with European children and youth on sport matters
Other Committee or Working Group	an unspecified number of people appointed by the Executive Committee to investigate specific issues and report back to the Executive Committee
Month	calendar month
Term	the consecutive period of 4 years for which both ExCom Officers and ExCom Members are elected to serve

N.B.

- Any words implying the singular number only shall include the plural number and vice versa.