

EUROPEAN DRAGON BOAT FEDERATION

Founded 5th May 1990



CONSTITUTION

CONSISTING OF THE EDBF

STATUTES

AND

BYE-LAWS

4th EDITION

(effective from 27th November 2005)

Registered Office

16 Bruton Lane, London W1X 3LB
England

EUROPEAN DRAGON BOAT FEDERATION

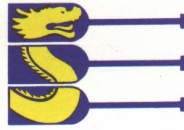
EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Mike HASLAM	Great Britain
Chairman	Alan Van CAUBERGH	Netherlands
Senior Vice-Chairman	Claudio SCHERMI	Italy
Second Vice-Chairman	Viktor KISSELEV	Russia
Secretary-General (acting)	Randi VOLDBAKKEN	Denmark
Treasurer	(Vacancy)	
Council Representative	David Cogswell	Great Britain

MEMBER COUNTRIES

Austria	Austrian Dragon Boat Association	(ADBA)
Belgium	Belgium Dragon Boat Association	(BeDBA)
Bulgaria	Bulgarian Dragon Boat Association	(BuDBA)
Croatia	Croatian Dragon Boat Association	(CRDBA)
Czech Republic	Czech Dragon Boat Association	(CZDBA)
Denmark	Danish Dragon Boat Association	(DDBA)
Finland	Finnish Dragon Boat Association	(FDBA)
France	French Dragon Boat Federation	(FFDB)
Germany	German Dragon Boat Association	(DDV)
Great Britain	British Dragon Boat Racing Association	(BDA)
Hungary	Hungarian Dragon Boat Association	(HDBA)
Ireland	All Ireland Dragon Boat Association	(AIDBA)
Italy	Italian Dragon Boat Federation	(FIDB)
Latvia	Latvian Canoe Federation	(LCF)
Netherlands	Netherlands Dragon Boat Federation	(NDBF)
Norway	Norwegian Dragon Boat Association	(NDBA)
Poland	Polish Dragon Boat Federation	(PDBF)
Portugal	Portuguese Dragon Boat Association	(PDBA)
Russia	Russian Association Sport Dragon Boat Clubs	(RASDBC)
Slovakia	Slovakian Dragon Boat Association	(SLDBA)
Sweden	Swedish Dragon Boat Association	(SDBA)
Switzerland	Swiss Dragon Boat Federation	(SDBF)
Ukraine	Ukraine Dragon Boat Federation	(UKDBF)

Estonia, Greece, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Turkey – Applications pending



INTRODUCTION

The European Dragon Boat Federation (EDBF) was formally constituted at a meeting of its Founder Members held, at the Hazewinkle Watersports Centre, Mechelen, Belgium, on Saturday 5th May 1990.

Representatives from the following European Nations were present at the meeting, the Netherlands, Italy, Sweden, the United Kingdom and West Germany, the Founder Members, with written support for the proposed EDBF Constitution coming from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Switzerland. Messages of support were received from Belgium, Hungary, Ireland, Poland and Portugal.

The role of the EDBF is to develop the sport of Dragon Boat Racing, in its modern era, and to ensure that festival based Dragon Boating retains its traditions and remains a sport and recreation to be enjoyed at all levels, by as many people as possible. This the EDBF seeks to achieve without too many unnecessary rules and regulations or too much officialdom.

The philosophy of the EDBF is that Dragon Boating is great fun and a very social sport. At basic level the EDBF believes that Dragon Boat Racing should be organised with this in mind, thus keeping it well within the capabilities of the average able-bodied or disabled person.

The formal Articles laid down in the EDBF Statutes, together with the Bye-Laws, Competition Regulations and Rules of Racing are designed to create an organisation, within which, the cultural background and traditions and the social aspects of Dragon Boating are preserved; the competitive aspects of Dragon Boat Racing enhanced; and the ideals on which the EDBF is founded maintained.

The purpose of the EDBF, therefore is to provide an international organisation for the general conduct of Dragon Boating and the development of Dragon Boat Racing, as a recognised sport within Europe and to represent the interests of its member Governing Dragon Boat Associations and Groups with other organisations.

MIKE HASLAM
EDBF Chairman

11th November 1999

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EDBF STATUTES

The use of italic writing throughout this edition of the EDBF Statues is to show where changes, clarifications and additions to the previous edition have been made and serve no other purpose.

PART 1. GENERAL CONDITIONS.

The EDBF Statutes consist of the formal Articles of Association adopted by the General Assembly of the Federation and as such they lay down the principles on which the EDBF is established and the policies under which the EDBF is organised. The description and principles of the EDBF, as an organisation, are laid down in Bye-Laws.

ARTICLE 1. - NAME AND JURISDICTION.

1.1 **EDBF**. The organisation shall be known as the EUROPEAN DRAGON BOAT FEDERATION, with the official abbreviation of EDBF. The jurisdiction of the EDBF is directly related to the sport of Dragon Boat Racing in Europe, and through its member organisations may also encompass recreational and festival dragon boating. A 'Dragon Boat', Festival dragon boating and the sport of Dragon Boat Racing shall be defined within the EDBF Bye-Laws and the format and conduct of Dragon Boat Racing laid down in the EDBF Competition Regulations and Rules of Racing.

1.2 **Emblem**. The emblem of the EDBF and the circumstances in which it may be used shall be defined within the Bye-Laws.

1.3 **Language** The official language of the EDBF is English. The use of other languages in EDBF Meetings may be authorised by the Chairman with the consent of the meeting concerned.

1.4 **Headquarters** As a general rule, the EDBF shall have its headquarters where its administrative offices are situated. The administrative offices of the federation shall be in the country where either the EDBF Chairman or Secretary-General are domiciled.

1.5 **Autonomy & Recognition** The EDBF shall have no part in purely national or territorial questions. It shall allow Member Governing Associations complete autonomy internally. The EDBF recognises the International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF) as the only world governing body for Dragon Boating and supports its aims and objectives.

ARTICLE 2. - AIMS.

2.1. The EDBF is founded to promote and develop competition in Dragon Boats as a Sport, and to encourage their use as a recreational activity for all people, within the countries of Europe and to strengthen the bonds of friendship that unite those that practise dragon boating in all its aspects.

2.2. The EDBF shall not allow political, racial or religious discrimination between, or towards its crews, competitors, officials and officers. Events, meetings and races organised or sanctioned by the EDBF shall only be held in countries which guarantee unhindered access to all those representing the Federation or a Member Organisation.

2.3. The EDBF shall promote and encourage the social aspects of Dragon Boating amongst its members and shall maintain the cultural background and traditions of festival racing in the modern era of the sport of Dragon Boat Racing, which was established in 1976 from International Races held as part of the Hong Kong Festival.

2.4. The EDBF shall be the means of liaison between the member organisations recognised by it. Such matters may demand assistance from the Federation in all matters that fall within the sphere of EDBF activities, interest or influence.

2.5. The EDBF shall uphold the principle of neither interfering with, nor permitting interference in, the internal affairs of Member Organisations.

2.6. Without infringing the right of self-determination of any of its members the EDBF shall follow and watch any developments in international sport that may effect the Federation or its members or the sport and recreation of Dragon Boating in Europe.

2.7. The EDBF is established to settle any disputes that may arise between its members from time to time.

ARTICLE 3. - OBJECTS.

Other objects may from time to time be defined by the General Assembly.

3.1. To establish competition in dragon boats that will enable all age groups and ability levels to take part in races at a level that is suitable to their degree of skill and experience.

3.2. To encourage the formation of governing associations in countries where none exists and to give advice and guidance on development where a recognised organisation does exist.

3.3. To encourage the organisation of international races open to all crews, at both Club Crew and National Crew level; to co-ordinate a programme of international races and to ensure the right of competitors to take part in international competition.

3.4. To establish European competitions under the title of European National Crew Championships and European Club Crew Championships.

3.5. To issue Rules and Regulations to be followed in competitions organised or authorised by the EDBF and to advise member organisations on such matters at national level.

3.6. To ensure that all races organised or authorised by the EDBF are governed by Rules and Regulations that give equal opportunities to men and women in the composition of dragon boat crews.

3.7. To maintain the traditional designs of the craft and equipment used in Dragon Boating and to ensure that rules and regulations for the building and classification of dragon boats, used in competitions within Europe, reflect these designs.

3.8. To ensure that all Statutes, Bye-Laws; Competition Regulations and Rules of Racing issued by the EDBF and IDBF, where appropriate, are fully observed and complied with.

3.9. To establish formal links and associations with other **European Sports Federations and groups**

PART 2. MEMBERSHIP

ARTICLE 4. - MEMBERS.

4.1. Membership of the EDBF shall be open to any Governing Association for Dragon Boating, Dragon Boat Groups or Crews and other types of organisations in Europe, that support the Aims and Objectives of the EDBF. Such Membership is conditional on the terms laid down in the EDBF Statutes and Bye Laws and is subject to the payment of an annual fee.

4.2. **Classes of Membership.** The EDBF shall consist of classes of Membership as approved by the General Assembly of the Federation, which for the time being are:

- a. Governing Member.
- b. Club Member.
- c. Associate Member.
- d. Supporting (Associate) Member

4.2.1 **Founder Members.** Those countries who founded the EDBF shall be known as Founder Members in recognition of the part they played in forming the EDBF. This membership shall be honorary and carry no authority unless the Founder Member concerned is also an EDBF Governing Association Member.

4.3. **Governing Member.** Governing Membership of the EDBF is open to any autonomous Governing Dragon Boat Association within Europe. Europe shall be defined in the Bye-Laws. An autonomous Governing Association is one that is not part of another Governing Body of Sport. To be given EDBF status as a Governing Member an applicant for such membership must have the minimum number of bona fide Dragon Boat Clubs (as defined in the Bye-Laws) in its own membership.

A Governing Association which is part of another governing body of sport shall only be afforded Associate Membership of the EDBF- See Amendment 1/97 after Para 5.5.

4.3.1 There shall be two (2) categories of Governing Members:-

- a. Full Member.
- b. Basic Member.

4.3.2 **Full Member.** Full Membership of the EDBF is open to any autonomous Governing Dragon Boat Association that has been **recognised** in its own country as the National Governing Body for the sport of Dragon Boat Racing and provided that another EDBF Governing Member (other than the applicant) is not already in EDBF Membership from that country. (see Article 7.4)

a. Acceptable **recognition for Full Membership** is that given by the International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF) for IDBF Full Membership or by a competent authority, such as the leading sports federation or by the overall body or association for sport in the EDBF Member's own country or by the National Olympic Committee (NOC) of that country, if appropriate or another body, whichever is the appropriate organisation for the national recognition of a sports body.

b. The exception to Statute 4.3.2 and (a) are the Founder Members who, individually, shall be Full EDBF Members, subject to remaining compliant with the Bye-Laws regarding membership and provided that a change of Governing Association Status, as defined by the Bye-Laws, has not occurred. Should this be the case, then the EDBF Council will decide, subject to ratification by a General Assembly, which other class of Membership a Founder Member shall be entitled to.

4.3.3 **Basic Member.** Basic Membership of the EDBF is open to an autonomous Governing Dragon Boat Association, who does not qualify for Full Member status, in a country where an EDBF Governing Member does not already exist. Applicants who are in countries where a governing association for dragon boating does exist but which is not in membership of the EDBF or IDBF, may apply for EDBF Basic Membership. (See also Article 7.4 & Bye-Law 12.3.2)

4.4. **Club Members.** Club Membership of the EDBF is open to Dragon Boat Groups and Crews who do not qualify for Governing Member status, in a country where an EDBF **Governing Member** does not already exist or where a governing association for dragon boating does exist which is not in EDBF Membership but see also Bye-Law 12.6.3.

4.4.1 A condition of EDBF Club Membership is that once there are three EDBF Club Members in one country; or one Club Member has established either three (3) clubs or crews in one region (or one (1) club or crew in at least three (3) regions) of a country; whichever may be required for national recognition, as described in 4.3.2.a, above; then a Steering Committee must be set up to form an EDBF Governing Association with a formal Constitution (see EDBF Bye-Laws) for the country concerned.

4.4.2 Once a fourth (4th) club or crew has been formed then the EDBF Club Member or Members concerned must re-apply to the Board, for EDBF Governing Member status, either Full or Basic, whichever is appropriate.

4.5. ***Associate Members.** Associate Membership is open to non-autonomous **Governing** Dragon Boat Associations (that is, dragon boat associations that are part of

or **subservient** to, another Governing Body of Sport) in countries where an EDBF Governing or Club Member does not already exist - see also Bye-Law 12.6 and Amendment 1/97 below.

4.6 **Supporting (Affiliate) Members.** EDBF Supporting(Affiliate) Membership is open to sponsors; event organisers of international dragon boat regattas; non-dragon boat sports organisations and non-sporting organisations that support the Aims and Objects of the EDBF – see also Bye-Law 12.6.4

4.7 **Temporary Membership.** All applicants for EDBF Membership may, in the first instance, be offered Temporary Membership by the EDBF Board of Management - see also Bye-Law 12.10.

ARTICLE 5. - ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP

5.1. **All applicants.** All applicants wishing to join the EDBF, must apply in writing, to the EDBF Secretary-General and shall pay a joining fee as shown in the Bye-Laws. (In the event that the application is rejected the amount paid will be refunded).

5.2 An applicant for Membership must give a formal undertaking to observe and comply with the EDBF Statutes, Bye-Laws, Competition Regulations and Racing Rules as now published and as may be amended and published, from time to time, and to:-

- a. Undertake to accept as binding and final the decisions of the competent authorities within the EDBF and with regard to disputes between EDBF Members to recognise the IDBF Courts of Arbitration and the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, as the only external judicial authorities.
- b. Undertake to impose the obligations in Articles 2 and 3 upon its own members and their members in all areas in which the EDBF has authority.

5.3 **Governing Members.** In addition a Governing Association shall submit with its application, two copies of its Statutes, Regulations and Racing Rules; a list of all Dragon Boat Crews in its membership and details of its Governing (Executive) Committee. (See the EDBF Bye-Laws for requirements concerning Dragon Boat Crews)

5.4 For Full Member applicants proof of governing association autonomy, as defined in Article 4.3 and recognition, as defined at Article 4.3.2.a, is also required.

5.5. **Club Members.** A Dragon Boat Group or Crew applying for EDBF Club Membership, shall submit with its application two copies of its Constitution and Regulations **and submit a summary of its own activities and the general development of dragon boating in its own country.**

*Amendment (Amdt) 1/97. This Amendment passed by the 1996 AGA in Malmo, Sweden, was effective from 1 January 1997 and is only applicable to non autonomous Governing Associations applying for EDBF Membership after that date. Non autonomous EDBF Members, at that time, are not subject to this Amendment, unless Membership ceases, in which case any re-application for Membership would be subject to Amendment 1/97.

5.6. **Associate and Supporting Membership.** Associate and Supporting (Affiliate) Membership are subject to the terms and conditions for such membership as laid down

in the EDBF Bye-Laws. Supporting Membership is also conditional upon the applicant being in membership of an EDBF Governing Association, where one exists, in the country in which the applicant is based and subject to a class of membership, similar to EDBF Supporting Membership, being available from the EDBF Member concerned.

5.7. **Acceptance of Membership.** Temporary Membership to the EDBF will be automatically approved by the Board of Management, under the terms shown in Bye-Laws 12.10, unless in the opinion of the Board such approval would not be in the best interests of the sport or the Federation.

5.8 **Objections to Membership.** An existing EDBF Member may raise an objection to any Temporary Membership approved by the Board by giving the reason in writing to the EDBF Chairman. Approval of Temporary Membership will normally be notified to the recipient, annotated "subject to ratification by the EDBF Council", after the approving Board meeting has taken place.

5.9 An objection to Temporary Membership from an EDBF Member, will be considered by the EDBF Council of Representatives and the Council's decision notified to all concerned. The Council is also responsible for ratifying all Temporary Memberships and for hearing appeals made against the decisions of the EDBF Board concerning membership.

5.10 **Non Acceptance of Membership.** In the case of a non-acceptance of a membership application by the Board, the applicant shall be notified, in writing, by the EDBF Secretary-General. The applicant shall also be advised that an appeal may be made, through the EDBF Chair Holder, to the EDBF Council for the application to be reconsidered. . In the case of the Council upholding the Board's decision on a membership application, the reasons why the application has not been approved must be given to the applicant, by the EDBF Chair Holder, in writing.

5.11 **Ratification and Final Approval.** All classes of EDBF Membership are subject to ratification by the EDBF Council. The final approval for Governing Members (Full and Basic) and for Club and Associate Members will be by formal election at an EDBF General Assembly, for which a majority of the votes of members represented shall be required. There can be no appeal against a vote of the General Assembly but after a period of 12 months has elapsed, a further application for EDBF Membership can be submitted to the EDBF Board for re-consideration.

5.12 **Resignations.** A Member wishing to withdraw from EDBF membership shall do so in accordance with the Bye-Laws and shall give notice of resignation in writing to the Secretary-General, who shall inform the Board of Management and the remaining EDBF Members of any such resignation within 3 months of the resignation occurring

5.13 **Expulsion** A Member who does not continue to fulfil the conditions for EDBF Membership may be expelled by an EDBF Assembly on the recommendation of the Council in accordance with Article 16.

ARTICLE 6. - MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

6.1. All Members of the EDBF shall pay an annual subscription fee, as detailed in

the Bye-Laws. This fee will vary according to the class of Membership offered. The annual membership fee must be paid no later than the 31st March in the year that it is due.

6.2. Members whose fees are in arrears may be suspended from the EDBF by the Council or other action taken in accordance with Article 16 and the EDBF Bye-Laws, such as losing voting rights. Crews from organisations in arrears may also be barred from EDBF events, until all outstanding subscriptions are paid.

PART 3. ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

ARTICLE 7. - CONTROL.

7.1. The control of the EDBF shall be invested in the following:

1. The EDBF General Assembly of Members (the Assembly)
2. The EDBF Council of Representatives (the Council)
3. The EDBF Board of Management (the Board)

7.2. In addition the Council of Representatives may appoint EDBF Commissions to advise the Council and make recommendations on constitutional and organisational matters.

7.3. **Finance.** The Financial Year of the EDBF shall be from the 1st November to the 31 October the following year.

7.4. **Representation within the EDBF.** Several Dragon Boat Associations or groups, in one country, can only be represented in the EDBF by one (1) Governing Member. However, with Article 4.4.1 accepted and subject to the conditions of membership shown in the Bye-Laws (see BL 12.6.2), more than one Club or Associate Member per country, may be represented. Full Members are entitled to demand assistance from the EDBF in all matters that fall within the sphere of EDBF activities.

ARTICLE 8 - THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

8.1. The General Assembly shall be the supreme authority of the EDBF. All activities of the Federation shall be subject to control by the General Assembly. The Officers of the Board will act in the same capacity for the General Assembly. *The EDBF President shall preside at meetings of the General Assembly and as the Leader of the General Assembly. The EDBF President shall take the Chair or failing this the Chair Holder or failing this the Senior Vice-Chair Holder or failing this the Second Vice-Chair Holder or failing this the Secretary-General.* (Nov 05).

The General Assembly may meet as an Ordinary or Extraordinary Assembly as detailed in this Article.

8.2. **Ordinary Assembly.** Members shall meet annually in an Ordinary General Assembly (AGA) at a time and place agreed by the previous meeting. All Governing Members; Club Members and Associate Members of the EDBF, shall be entitled to send delegates to an Ordinary Assembly. Each Governing Member shall have the right to appoint a maximum of three (3) delegates and each Club and Associate Member a maximum of two delegates to speak on their behalf and to take part in the business of the Assembly. Supporting Members may send observers to an Ordinary AGA.

8.2.1 **Convening Notice.** The Secretary-General shall send out a formal convening notice at least one (1) month before the agreed date of the Ordinary General Assembly. As a minimum, this notice shall confirm the date, time and place of the AGA. The notice shall include an Agenda and may include any other supporting papers appropriate to the Agenda items.

8.3. Delegates attendance at an Ordinary General Assembly shall be at EDBF Members own expense and those delegates attending should notify the EDBF Secretariat of their intention to do so, at least two weeks before the Assembly meets.

8.4. A Member may represent one other Member at an **Ordinary** Assembly provided that Article 8.3, has been complied and a notification of representation, in writing, received by the Chair Holder of the Assembly. An EDBF Member cannot be represented by a Member of the Board, at a General Assembly.

8.5. **Voting.** Each Governing Member attending or represented at the Ordinary General Assembly, shall be entitled to cast one vote and Club and Associate Members one block vote per country on matters affecting the EDBF Competition Regulations or Rules of Racing and when electing the Officers and Members Representatives of the Council. Such decisions will be taken by a simple majority on a show of hands, unless a secret ballot is demanded by a delegate and for elections, also as shown in 8.5.1. Other than when formally representing another member no proxy voting is allowed.

8.5.1 **Elections.** Voting for elections shall always be by secret ballot when ever there is more than one (1) candidate. When this is the case and additional ballots are necessary, the candidate obtaining the smallest number of votes in each ballot, shall be eliminated until one candidate obtains the majority vote. In similar situations, for example awarding the right to organise an EDBF Championship, this method of voting shall also apply

8.6. On any matters concerning the EDBF Statutes and Bye-Laws; Governing Members will be entitled to cast one vote each and Club Members, in total, will be entitled to cast one block vote. Such decisions can be taken by a two thirds majority of those attending and entitled to vote on these matters.

8.6.1 A Voting Representative, for each type of block vote, shall be notified to the Chair Holder of the Assembly before voting commences.

8.6.2 **Date of taking Effect.** Elections and decisions of an Ordinary Assembly shall take effect immediately, unless the Assembly determines otherwise.

8.7. **Quorum.** Subject to the provision of Article 20, the Ordinary General Assembly shall have the power to vote and make decisions if at least one third of all the Governing and Club Members, entitled to vote are present or represented.

8.8. **Agenda.** The Agenda for the Ordinary General Assembly will generally include the following items:-

1. Opening of the Assembly, including a roll call of Members and their representatives, and formal welcome to Temporary Members.
2. Confirmation of the published Agenda.
3. Confirmation of the previous Minutes.
4. Appointment of scrutineers for the Assembly.
5. EDBF Chair Holder's Report to include:
 - a. the work of the Council and Board.
 - b. list of new Members for final approval.
6. Reports from the EDBF Commissions'
7. Financial Report, approval of accounts and budgets.
8. Confirmation of Annual Fees proposed by the Board.
9. Election of Officers and Member's Representatives of the Council.
10. Motions before the Assembly, including Appeals, Statute Amendments.
11. Confirming the time and place of EDBF Championships.
12. Any other business notified by Members or the Board or Council.
13. Setting the Date and Place of the next meeting.

8.9. **Motions.** Any Member of the EDBF, the Board or Council shall have the right to propose motions or items of other business for the consideration of an Ordinary General Assembly. Such motions or items shall ordinarily be submitted in writing to the Secretary-General no later than six (6) weeks before the date of the Ordinary Assembly, or minuted by a prior Board or Council Meeting

8.10. Additional items, not in the form of a motion or concerning the Statutes, received after the Agenda has been published, may also be discussed as Any Other Business, if the majority of Members at the Assembly so agree.

8.11. Formal voting on additional items may only take place if at least two thirds of all Governing and Club Members entitled to vote are present at the Assembly and providing that the majority of all Members present are in favour of such a vote.

8.12. Changes to the Statutes, Racing Rules and Competition Regulations can be discussed at any General Assembly but actual amendments shall only be voted on every two years, that is, on even years only, or by an Extraordinary General Assembly. Such amendments shall come into effect on the day following the voting Assembly.

8.13. Any proposal placed on the Ordinary Assembly Agenda by a Member who is not present shall only be discussed if another Member, or the EDBF Board assumes responsibility for it.

8.14 **Auditing of Accounts.** The Ordinary General Assembly shall appoint a Full Member to be responsible for auditing the EDBF accounts, in accordance with the Bye-Laws

8.15 **Reports.** A General Assembly may appoint individuals or organisations to report on matters brought before it. It may also require the Board to submit its views on questions that the assembly may wish to give further consideration.

8.16 **Appeals.** Appeals against decisions taken by the Council and Board concerning the Bye-Laws; Competition Regulations and Rules of Racing or disciplinary penalties imposed by the Board, must be submitted in the form of a motion, to the EDBF Chairman. This must be done in writing, by recorded post, facsimile transmission or email, at least six (6) weeks before the date of an Ordinary General Assembly.

8.17. **Extraordinary General Assembly.** Delegates shall meet as an Extraordinary Assembly when the Ordinary Assembly, the Board or the Council so decide or when at least one third of the Full Members of the federation submit a demand in writing to the EDBF Chair Holder, giving the reasons why. A convening notice and agenda for an Extraordinary Assembly must be sent out by the Secretary-General no later than two (2) weeks before the Assembly meets.

8.18 With the exception of business under Article 20, a quorum of half (50%) of the Full Governing Members entitled to vote is required before an Extraordinary Assembly can formally discuss any business on the Agenda. Voting can only take place if at least two thirds of all Governing Members entitled to vote are present. A two thirds majority vote of all Members present is required to pass a motion placed before an Extraordinary Assembly. Postal voting or voting by proxy is not allowed

8.19 Proposals from Members can only be discussed if the Member's delegates are present. The costs of members delegates attending an extraordinary Assembly remain with the members. Decisions taken by an Extraordinary General Assembly shall come into effect on the day following the Assembly concerned unless the delegates decide otherwise.

ARTICLE 9. - THE COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES.

9.1. The policies of the EDBF shall be *formulated and implemented by a Council of Representatives* elected by the General Assembly and consisting of the following *Officers and Members Representatives*:

Officers: *President (Nov 05)*
 Chair Holder
 Senior Vice-Chair Holder
 Second Vice-Chair Holder
 Secretary-General
 Treasurer

Representatives
 from Governing Members (four)
 Club Members (one)

The Founder Members (five) may each nominate a Permanent Representative to the Council provided that they are in current membership of the EDBF as a Governing Member. The Chair Holders of the Commissions (four) shall be ex-officio members of the Council, in a non-voting capacity.

9.2. **Quorum.** When one third of the elected Officers, Members and Permanent Representatives are present, the Council shall have a quorum for discussion and the recording of minutes. Formal voting and the passing of resolutions can only take place if 50%, plus one (1) of all Council Members, entitled to vote, are in attendance. The Council Chair Holder shall have a casting vote only.

9.3. The duties of the Treasurer may be undertaken by the Secretary General. In the event that the Secretary and Treasurer are different people, then ideally, one of them should be from the same country as the Chair Holder.

9.4. **Nominations.** EDBF Officers, for election to the Council shall be nominated and seconded by any two EDBF Members, or the Council in a formal minute. The Members Representatives must be notified to the EDBF Board, by the Group or Member Organisation to which they belong (see Bye-Laws for nominating procedures). All such nominations must be lodged with the Secretary – General at least six (6) weeks before an Ordinary Assembly.

9.5. **Periods of Office.** The President, the Chair Holder and Vice-Chair Holders shall be elected to serve for a period of two years and shall retire on alternate years, the President and Chair Holder one year, the Vice-Chair Holders the following year.

9.6. The Secretary-General, the Treasurer and the Members Representatives, shall serve for four years. The Secretary and half the elected Council shall retire at an Ordinary Assembly when the Vice-Chair Holders retire and, the Treasurer and the other half shall retire at an Ordinary Assembly when the Chair Holder retires.

9.7. All periods of office shall commence from the Ordinary General Assembly at which the election takes place.

9.8. **Election.** The election of Officers and Members Representatives to the Council, shall be by simple majority of those votes cast. All Officers of the Council and Members Representatives shall be eligible for re-election.

9.9. **Casual Vacancies.** In the case of a resignation from the Council or other reason, in respect of an Officer of the Council, a casual vacancy will have occurred. A replacement can only be elected by the next General Assembly. However, the Board may nominate a replacement to serve until the next Assembly. In the event of the death or resignation of the Chair Holder, the Senior Vice-Chair Holder shall take the Chair until the next Assembly. The Bye-Laws shall deal with Casual Vacancies concerning the Representatives to the Council.

9.10. **Co-options.** The Council may co-opt additional members to its number, in an advisory capacity only, when an appropriate Standing Commission does not exist. Co-opted members shall not have voting rights.

9.11 and 9.12 Spare

9.13. **Duties of the Council.** The Council shall be responsible for the following:

1. To take such steps as may be necessary to achieve the aims and object laid down in Articles 2 and 3 of these Statutes.
2. To ensure the execution of decisions taken by a General Assembly and to approve the EDBF Competition Regulations and Rules of Racing.
3. To take what action may be necessary under Articles 16 and 17 concerning disciplinary matters and disputes between EDBF Members.
4. To ensure the maintenance of proper standards in the organisation of EDBF Championships and Events conducted under the authority of or sanctioned by the EDBF.
5. To ensure the observation of the EDBF Statutes, Bye-Laws, Competition Regulations and Rules of Racing Rules by Member organisations.
6. To ratify appointments to the Standing Commissions made by the Board.
7. To make policy decisions on behalf of the General Assembly between meetings of the Assembly concerning the development of the sport.
8. To ratify any Bye-Laws and non-management decisions made by the Board and to hear membership application appeals.

9.14. In order to ensure the effectiveness of its work, the Council shall meet at least once a year, between meetings of the General Assembly. The Council may conduct its business in writing, by email, facsimile machine or other electronic means or by telephone until, in the context of a discussion, the Chairholder deems otherwise.

9.15 and 9.16 Spare.

ARTICLE 10 - THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

10.1. The Officers of the Council and one nominee from the Permanent Representatives (see the Bye-Laws for nominating procedures) shall form the EDBF Board of Management. Employees of the EDBF may also be co-opted to the Board, in an advisory capacity, on the authority of the Chair Holder.

10.2. The duties of the Board shall be:.

1. To conduct the work of the EDBF between meetings of the Council and the General Assembly and to keep members informed of the affairs of the EDBF.
2. To make decisions in the interests of Dragon Boat Racing between meetings of the Council and to ensure representation of the EDBF by one of its Officers or Members of the Council.
3. To assign duties to and direct the work of the EDBF Commissions. To ensure that the duties assigned are properly carried out. For this reason Board Members shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the Commissions in a representative capacity.
4. To prepare and issue Convening Notices and Agendas for the General Assembly and the Council and to prepare reports for both.
5. To draw up and adapt where necessary, on behalf of the Council, new EDBF Statutes, Bye-Laws, Competition Regulations and Racing Rules, and wherever necessary to interpret; clarify and give rulings on existing ones. Where such rulings etc concern an appeal or a dispute regarding the provisions of the Statutes, Bye-Laws etc, there shall be no appeal against the interpretation or decision of the Board.
6. To be responsible for the day to day administration and financial management of the EDBF. To this end the Board of Management may establish administrative offices with persons who are remunerated
7. To deal with such matters as have been specifically delegated to it by the General Assembly or Council
8. To take disciplinary action against any EDBF Member, individual or crews reported to the Board under the EDBF Competition Regulations or Code of Conduct. An appeal against disciplinary action taken by the Board may be made to the Council.

10.3 The Board shall meet at least twice during the year, once in conjunction with a Council Meeting and then normally between meetings of the Council. The Board may conduct its business in writing, by email, facsimile machine or other electronic means, visual or verbal, or by telephone.

ARTICLE 11. - EDBF COMMISSIONS

11.1 The Council may approve and the Board set up, Commissions for specific purposes concerning the development of all aspects of dragon boating. Such Commissions as may be necessary from time to time, shall be consultative and advisory bodies for the Board from whom they shall receive the directions for their work. In particular, Commissions will be established in the following fields:-

1. Marketing and Media (M&MCOM)
2. Technical Equipment (TECCOM)
3. Competition and Special Events (COMSPEC)
4. Sports Medicine, Psychology and Science (SMEDCOM)

11.2, Members may nominate people to serve on any Commission but any such nominations must be notified to the Secretary General for consideration by the Board. The Council and the Board may make direct appointments to the Commissions. All appointments shall be ratified by the Council and shall be for a period of two (2) years, which may be renewed. The Commission Chair Holders' shall be non-voting members of the EDBF Council.

11.3 Duties of the Commissions The duties and field of activity of the Commissions shall be defined in the EDBF Bye-Laws. The Commissions shall meet as required and when so requisitioned by the Commission Chair Holder. The Commissions may conduct their business in writing, by email, facsimile machine or other electronic means, visual or verbal, or by telephone.

ARTICLE 12. - DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL; BOARD AND THE COMMISSIONS

12.1. Decisions of the EDBF Council; the Board and the Commissions', shall be taken by an open vote and with a simple majority. If, however, one member so demands, a secret ballot shall be arranged. Voting by proxy is not allowed.

ARTICLE 13. - EXPENSES OF OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

13.1. Travel and accommodation expenses for the Officers and Members of the Council and the Commissions shall normally be borne by the Member Organisation to which the individual belongs. If an individual does not belong to an EDBF Member then, where possible, such expenses may be met by the EDBF. The expenses of the Board shall, where possible, be met by the EDBF if sufficient funds are available.

13.2 If EDBF finances permit, travel and administrative expenses will be paid to all persons working for the EDBF but details of all such expenses must be submitted to the Treasurer, for approval by the Board.

ARTICLE 14. - DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT AND OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

14.1 The duties of the *President and (05) Officers* of the EDBF shown below and the Honorary Officers as shown in Article 15, are detailed in the Bye-Laws

1. *The President (Nov 05)*
2. The Chair Holder
3. The Senior Vice-Chair Holder
4. The Second Vice-Chair Holder
5. The Secretary-General
6. The Treasurer

14.2 Between Council and Board meetings the Chair Holder and Senior Vice-Chair Holder shall deal with current affairs, with the Secretary-General. They shall conduct the day to day running of the EDBF, subject to the authority of the Board, Council and the General Assembly.

14.3. **Members and Permanent Representatives of Council.** It is incumbent upon the Members Representatives and Permanent Representatives of the Council, to represent the views of their member organisation. It is also incumbent upon them to promote the development of Dragon Boating, within their sphere of influence but chiefly in those European countries in which the sport is not well known.

14.4. Representatives shall carry out such tasks as may be allocated to them by the Council or by the Board or as published in the Bye-Laws, from time to time.

ARTICLE 15. - HONORARY APPOINTMENTS and OFFICERS

15.1. **Honorary Members.** The Council can elect qualified persons who have rendered valuable services to the EDBF or to Dragon Boating international, as Honorary Members of the EDBF.

15.2. Nominations for such honorary membership can be made by a Member, the Council or the Board and shall be submitted to the Council by the Board before consideration and approval by the General Assembly.

15.3. **Honorary President.** The General Assembly may elect a past Chair Holder of the EDBF as a President of Honour. An Honorary President shall be entitled to attend the EDBF meetings and the General Assembly in a non-voting, advisory capacity.

15.4. Any two EDBF Members, the Council or the Board, can make a proposal for the election of a President of Honour. The election of a President of Honour shall be carried out at a General Assembly by acclamation and must be by a unanimous vote. The election of a President of Honour shall be for life.

15.5 **Honorary Vice-Presidents.** The General Assembly may elect past members of the EDBF Council as Honorary Vice-Presidents to assist the Honorary President in his or her duties as shown in the EDBF Bye-Laws. The election of a Vice-President of Honour shall be for life.

ARTICLE 16. - DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

16.1. The disciplinary measures open to the EDBF shall be to:

1. Caution.
2. Reprimand or Fine.
3. Exclude - some or all members of a Member Organisation from participation in EDBF events.
4. Suspension.
5. Expulsion.

16.2. These disciplinary measures can be taken against any individual from a Member Organisation in its entirety for a breach of the EDBF Statutes; Bye-Laws, Competition Regulations; or Rules of Racing, or for having harmed the interests of the EDBF or the reputation and standing of the sport.

16.3. Suspension may bar the individual member of a Member Organisation or the Member Organisation itself, of all rights and prerogatives appertaining to the EDBF, until the suspension is lifted. In the case of the expulsion of a Member, irrespective of Membership Class, membership of the EDBF ceases forthwith – see also Bye-Law 8.

16.4. Disciplinary Measures 1-2 shall be taken by the Board. Disciplinary Measures 3-4 shall be taken by the Council, with a recommendation from the Board. Disciplinary Measure 5 shall be taken by a General Assembly. Action taken by a General Assembly in this regard, shall require a two thirds majority vote of those EDBF Members present.

16.5. Appeals against a decision by the Board, concerning action taken under this Article can be made by the Member concerned to the Council. Appeals against a decision by the Council taken under this Article, can be made by the Member concerned in the form of a Motion, to an Ordinary General Assembly, whose decision shall be final.

ARTICLE 17. - COURTS OF ARBITRATION

17.1. In the case of a dispute between Members, disputing parties may ask the EDBF to appoint a Court of Arbitration. The Bye-Laws shall define the composition and duties of the Court of Arbitration. EDBF Members in membership of the IDBF may elect to go to an IDBF Court of Arbitration.

ARTICLE 18. - COMPETITION REGULATION AND RULES OF RACING.

18.1 Unless annotated otherwise in the document concerned, the Competition Regulations and Rules of Racing of the International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF) shall be used at EDBF Championships and EDBF sanctioned international regattas.

ARTICLE 19. - GENERAL REGULATIONS

19.1. EDBF Bye-Laws, Competition Regulations and Rules of Racing and other rules and regulations issued by the General Assembly, the Council, the Board or the EDBF Commissions must, to have the same authority as the Statutes, comply with their intention or meaning. In the event of a contradiction in intention or meaning between a Statute and a Bye-Law, the meaning of the Statute shall prevail.

19.2. All matters not specifically covered by the EDBF Statutes, Bye-Laws, Competition Regulations or Rules of Racing, shall be decided on by the EDBF Council as advised by the Board.

19.3. **Interpretation.** The authority for interpreting any dispute arising out of these Statutes, or the Bye-Laws appertaining thereto, shall reside with the EDBF Chair-Holder, who shall seek the advice of the Board or Council before taking the final decision.

19.4. Spare.

19.5. Spare.

PART 4. DISSOLUTION

ARTICLE 20 - DISSOLUTION

20.1. The dissolution of EDBF shall only be valid if carried by four fifths (4/5 of the votes of Members present at an Extraordinary General Assembly specially convened for the purpose. For such an Assembly to be effective a quorum of two thirds (2.3) of the Governing Members and Club Members in membership of the EDBF is necessary.

20.2. **Assets.** If the motion for dissolution is carried, the Secretariat shall be entitled to realise the assets of the EDBF, which shall be equally divided between the Governing Members and Club Members in membership of the EDBF or alternatively shall be applied to the furtherance of any aim or object, singular or plural, of the Federation, or given to some charitable object; whichever is determined by the General Assembly at, the time of dissolution by formal vote.

20.3. **Exceptions.** In no other circumstances shall any Member have any claim to any share whatever in the assets of the EDBF and any Member ceasing to be in, or suspended from, membership of the EDBF shall forfeit its claim to any assets of the EDBF.

PART 5. CONCLUDING PROVISION

ARTICLE 21. - ADOPTION OF STATUTES

21.1. These Statutes were adopted by the Inaugural General Assembly of the EDBF held on 5th May 1990 in Mechelen, Belgium, with immediate effect.

21.2 For the purpose of the Inaugural Assembly those attending registered as EDBF Founder Members under the terms of these Statutes and were required to comply with Articles 4 and 5, by the 1st January 1991, to validate their EDBF Membership.

21.3. The Inaugural Assembly appointed Officers and Representative Members of the then Executive Committee to take action in accordance with these Statutes. The initial Periods of Office for those persons appointed to the Executive Committee by the Inaugural Assembly were half the period of time laid down in these Statutes.

21.4. These Statutes as amended by the Inaugural Assembly, remained in force for two years from 1st January 1991. Subsequent minor amendments to the text, but not the meaning or intention of the Statutes and the addition of Article 3.10 were authorised by the 1993 AGA held in Basle, Switzerland, on 27th November 1993, with effect from 1st January 1994.

21.5. Article 4, was changed, to exclude the Individual Membership Class, by the 1994 AGA held in London, England, on 26th November 1994. This change resulted in amendments to Articles 5, 6, 8, 16 and 17, to remove all references to Individual Members, with effect from 1st January 1995.

21.6. Article 7.3, which laid down the EDBF Financial Year was also approved by the 1994 AGA. All amendments up to and including the 1994 AGA were fully incorporated in the 2nd Edition of the EDBF Statutes published in November 1996, which came into effect from 1st January 1997.

21.7 The EDBF Statutes and Bye-Laws were fully revised by the EDBF Secretariat and Executive Committee during 1999 and approved in their entirety by the EDBF Annual General Assembly held in Copenhagen on 21st November 1999, with immediate effect and published as Edition No.3 in January 2000.

21.8 This 4th Edition of the Statutes was amended by the 2002 AGA on the 16th November 2002, concerning Membership and Disciplinary Matters (Articles 4, 5, 8, 9 and 16).

21.9 This 5th Edition of the Statutes was amended by the 2005 AGA on the 26th November 2005, concerning creation of the position of EDBF President (Articles 8, 9 and 14). Any subsequent amendments to the Statutes and Bye-Laws, as now published, shall be carried out fully in compliance with these Statutes.

AJvC

Chairman
28 Dec 05