

Lausanne, 5 October 2022



To: National Associations
Continental Federations

Dear Members,

48th Ordinary Congress Proposed amendments to the FIH Statutes and General Regulations

During its meeting on 18 March 2022 and in August 2022, the FIH Executive Board agreed to additional FIH Statutes changes.

1. Proposed amendments to the FIH Statutes by the FIH Executive Board

The majority of the amendments were made for clarity purposes. However, we would like to draw your attention to two new articles related to the election of the President and the election of an ordinary member of the FIH Executive Board Member.

Art. 7.2 (d) *For the election of the President, where there is only one candidate, that person will be elected unopposed.*

Art. 7.2 (e) *For the election of an ordinary member (for both men and women), where there is the same number of candidates as positions available, these candidates will be elected unopposed.*

These amendments were inserted with the aim to:

- Allow the President to be elected “unopposed” where there is only one candidate, in the event there is no rival for the position.
- Allow the ordinary members to be elected “unopposed” where there is the same number of candidates as positions available.

Further, another amendment is related to the term of office of the President newly appointed by the Congress in the event the President dies, resigns, is expelled or becomes permanently incapacitated during term of office. The amended Article 7.4 (a) explicitly provides for the duration of the term of office of the newly elected President.

Art. 7.4 (a) Vacancies

If the *President* dies, resigns, is expelled or becomes permanently incapacitated during term of office, or if there is no eligible or elected candidate for the position of President at the time of an election, the *Executive Board* shall appoint an acting *President* to hold office until *Congress* appoints a person to fill the vacancy. A meeting of the *Congress* must be held within ninety (90) days for that purpose, unless the vacancy arises less than six (6) months before the next meeting of Congress, in which case, the acting *President* shall continue to hold office until the Congress elects a new President. The acting *President* shall be entitled to all privileges and responsible for all duties of the *President*. **The President newly appointed by the Congress will hold office for the remaining time of the term that the former President would have held otherwise, until the close of the ordinary meeting of Congress at which the position will fall vacant again for election.**

2. Proposed amendments to the FIH Statutes and General Regulations by European Hockey Federation (“EHF”)

EHF has proposed amendments in July-August 2022 to the FIH Statutes and General Regulations. EHF believes these changes can help serving the sport better by further aligning ourselves with Good Governance in sporting bodies and in fairness for the FIH members.

2.1 Proposed amendments to the FIH Statutes by EHF

The amendments to the FIH Statutes proposed by EHF were mainly related to the application and resolution for admission of new Members. More precisely, they focus on the timing enabling new Members to vote. Currently, new Members acquire the same voting rights as long-standing Members immediately following their admission. Following these amendments, a distinction would be made between Members enabled to vote and new Members which will rather be celebrated, with their voting rights commencing at the end of the Congress.

Art 6.2 (f) (ii) *An NA whose application to be admitted as a Member is on the agenda may send up to two (2) delegates (aged 18 years or over) to the meeting, one of whom must own a valid passport from that Member’s Country and shall be designated the head of the delegation. He may speak to but may not vote on the NA’s application for admission as a Member. If the application is granted, from that point the delegation may speak ~~to and vote~~ (exclusively through the head of the delegation) on all subsequent resolutions put to Congress at the meeting. When a Congress is held by teleconference, by videoconference or by another means of communication, voting by correspondence and/or online is permitted.*

Art. 6.3 Decision-making

- (a) The consideration of proposals to admit, suspend or expel Members by the Congress shall follow the order set out in Article 4.2 of the FIH General Regulations.
- (b) ~~(a)~~ Congress shall make decisions by voting on resolutions put to it at a meeting convened in accordance with Article 6.2. Such decisions shall come into effect immediately following the end of the Congress, unless Congress fixes another date for a decision to take effect.
- (c) ~~(a)~~ Resolutions for the admission, suspension and/or expulsion of any Members shall be considered before any other resolutions. of applicant NAs/provisional Members as full Members and/or for the replacement of a suspended Member, shall take effect following the end of the Congress.
- (d) Resolutions for the suspension and/or expulsion of any Members shall take effect immediately.
- (e) ~~(b)~~ Save where these Statutes provide to the contrary, each full Member is entitled to one (1) vote on each resolution put to Congress, provided it has a delegation present at the meeting. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted at a Congress held in person. When a Congress is held by teleconference, by videoconference or

by another means of communication, voting by correspondence and/or online is permitted.

- (f) ~~(e)~~ Voting shall be by show of hands or secret ballot (manual or electronic). When a Congress is held by teleconference, by videoconference or by another means of communication, voting by correspondence and/or online is permitted. The Member's vote on the resolution shall be exercised by the head of that Member's delegation to Congress, provided that a person may only be head of one Member's delegation and so may only vote on behalf of one (1) Member.
- (g) ~~(d)~~ A resolution shall be considered passed by Congress if it receives the requisite majority of votes in favour as follows [...]

2.2 Proposed amendments to the FIH General Regulations by EHF

The proposed amendments to the FIH General Regulations by EHF follow the reasoning of the proposed amendments to the FIH Statutes. As the proposed new article 6.3(a) would require to follow the order set out in Article 4.2 of the FIH General Regulations, EHF has proposed to change such order. EHF proposed to move consideration of application for membership further down the list and below consideration of proposals to suspend or expel Members under Article 4.2.1. Additionally, EHF proposed to add conferment of prizes and awards in the order of business under Article 4.2.1.

Art. 4.2. Business

4.2.1 The business of an ordinary meeting of the *Congress* shall include

- 4.2.1.1 the *President's* address;
- 4.2.1.2 receipt of the report of the *Executive Board* on its activities since the last meeting *Congress*;
- 4.2.1.3 approval of the audited financial statements of the *FIH*;
- ~~4.2.1.4 consideration of applications for membership of the *FIH* and/or for the transfer of membership of the *FIH*;~~
- 4.2.1.4 ~~(4.2.1.5)~~ consideration of proposals to suspend or expel *Members*;
- 4.2.1.5 ~~(4.2.1.6)~~ consideration of proposals for alteration of the *Statutes*;
- 4.2.1.6 ~~(4.2.1.7)~~ election of members of the *Executive Board*;
- 4.2.1.7 ~~(4.2.1.8)~~ fixing of subscriptions;
- 4.2.1.8 ~~(4.2.1.9)~~ appointment of an internationally active auditing firm having a representation in Switzerland to audit the accounts of the *FIH* for the ensuing two (2) years;

4.2.1.9 ~~(4.2.1.10)~~ appointment of the President of the *Judicial Commission* on the proposal of the *Executive Board*; and

4.2.1.10 conferment of prizes and awards; and

4.2.1.11 ~~(4.2.1.4)~~ consideration of applications for membership of the FIH and/or for transfer of membership of the *FIH*; and

4.2.1.12 ~~(4.2.1.11)~~ any other business of which proper notice has been given in accordance with the *Statutes*.

4.2.2. The order of business may be changed by the *Chair* either before or during the meeting.

3. Two separate votes

The Members shall cast two (“2”) separate votes on the alteration of the FIH Statutes and General Regulations at the Congress:

- The Members shall vote once on the proposed amendments to the FIH Statutes by the FIH Executive Board (1.).
- The Members shall vote once on the proposed amendments to the FIH Statutes and General Regulations by EHF (2.)

For each vote, it is our intention to propose approving all the Statutes and or General Regulations amendments in one block rather than dealing with the approval of each single amendment separately. Voting on all the amendments at once will save much time at the Congress meeting.

If you have any comments or objection to the above proposal, we kindly ask you to do so until 19 October 2022 so that any such matters can be addressed in good time before the Congress. Any feedback should be sent by email to FIH Legal Affairs at legal@fih.ch.

The EB further recommends that the proposed amendments are adopted with immediate effect at the Congress.

I hope this is clear, but in any case, if any NA/CF has any questions or comments on the procedure, I would happy to address them.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Thierry Weil', is written over a light blue, abstract, geometric shape.

Thierry Weil
CEO

Annex: proposed amended Statutes and General Regulations
Explanatory Table