



European Cheer Union

ECU STATUTES

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European Cheer Union – Statutes

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CHAPTER I – GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1 Name and Address

1.1 Name and Status

European Cheer Union, hereinafter known with its abbreviation ECU, is a non-for-profit sport federation.

1.2 Address

The ECU administrative address and location is determined by the Board and it must be within the Europe.

Article 2 Objectives

2.1 Objectives

The objectives of ECU are:

1. To promote and develop the sport of Cheer in Europe.
2. To operate altruistically and not pursue economic purposes. All funds may only be used by the purposes set in these statutes and as decided by the General Assembly.
3. To be a modern, flexible, transparent, accountable and all-inclusive federation.
4. To actively support the organization of Cheer by its members.
5. To increase the level of recognition of ECU and its members by the Olympic Movement stakeholders as well as by other entities involved in sport.
6. To promote and organize Cheer activities in Europe, such as, but not limited to, courses, camps, competitions and training for athletes, judges and coaches of member federations.
7. To communicate the sport of Cheer in Europe.
8. To decide on the competition rules used in international competitions in Europe which are sanctioned by ECU.
9. To tender, sanction and organize international Cheer championships in Europe, including ECU European Championships.
10. To promote closer links by its member federations and between member federations and other sports organizations.
11. To collaborate with the world wide governing body for Cheer, International Cheer Union, ICU.

Other objectives may be defined by the General Assembly.

Article 3 Non-discrimination, gender representation

3.1 Non-discrimination

The federation is politically neutral and represents the principle of religious and ideological tolerance and equality between women and men, including the occupation of positions in the federation.

3.2 Gender representation

The federation supports a fair representation of both genders in sporting activities as well as in the management of sport.

Article 4 World Anti-doping Agency (WADA)

4.1 Anti-doping

The federation advocates the fight against doping and takes all measures to prevent the use of banned performance-enhancing substances.

The federation and its members agree to strictly adhere to the rules and regulations of WADA as they are set in the valid version of the WADA-code.

Article 5 Language

5.1 Official language

The official language of ECU is English.

5.2 Statutes

The federation operates on the basis of the English version of these statutes.

5.3 Definition of Cheer

The word “Cheer” is the universal and historical term that also refers to variations of the word “Cheer” including but not limited to “Cheerleading”, “Cheering”, “Sport of Cheerleading”, “Sport of Cheer” and “Sport of Cheering”.

Article 6 Governing bodies

6.1 ICU

ECU recognizes the International Cheer Union, ICU, as the world governing body for the sport of Cheer.

ECU is recognized by ICU as the continental federation governing the sport of Cheer in Europe.

CHAPTER II - MEMBERSHIPS

Article 7 Categories of members

There are three categories of memberships in ECU:

7.1 Member federation

A. ECU is open to national federations in Europe, who are not-for-profit and who administer Cheer in their own country. For national federations who administer more than one sport in their federation, the following requirements must be fulfilled in order to be a member of ECU:

- At least one board member at the main board of the federation must be directly elected by the Cheer clubs of that federation.
- The representatives at the main board of the federation should reflect the numbers of members from the sport of Cheer in that federation.

B. Only one national federation from each country in Europe can be a member of the ECU.

C. ECU shall generally admit as member federation the national federation recognized by the International Cheer Union (ICU).

D. If there is no national federation recognized by the ICU, ECU will admit a national federation based upon the recognition by a country's National Olympic Committee, Confederation of Sports, the Sports Ministry or any other national governing body for sport.

7.2 Honorary members

Any individual, based on extraordinary accomplishments or contributions to the sport of Cheer may be nominated for honorary membership by the Board, the General Assembly or a member federation in good standing.

Admittance of honorary members must be approved by a majority vote of the General Assembly.

7.3 Associate members

The Board can accept associate members that have limited membership rights and obligation (see Article 9 below).

Article 8 Application procedure and conditions to member status

8.1 Applications

It is the intention of ECU to increase and promote membership. Applications for membership shall be submitted to the Board for review and consideration.

Applications shall be submitted in writing, and in English language.

Information required shall include the following as a minimum:

- Name of federation
- Country
- Governing individuals and their contact information
- Address and phone contacts of the federation
- Website address
- Description of the federation's memberships and programs (including number of members, age and gender)
- Bylaws (statutes) in English, or English translation
- Documents that verify the not-for-profit or other governmental status of the organization

A National Governing Body must include a written confirmation by the applicable Confederation of Sports, Olympic Committee, Sports Ministry or ICU of this status.

8.2 Provisional membership

The Board may decide to provisionally accept a member. A provisional membership can be granted until the application has been considered by the General Assembly.

8.3 Admission

After review and consideration, the Board will submit the applications for membership to the General Assembly.

The final decision of member admission is done by the General Assembly, by simple majority vote.

8.4 Good standing

A member shall be considered in "good standing" for a fiscal year if such member's dues from all previous fiscal years are paid in full. Only members in good standing are entitled to receive the services and/or benefits of ECU and enjoy the membership rights given by these statutes.

Article 9 Members rights and obligations

9.1 Rights of member federations

Member federations in good standing have the right:

- To receive in advance the agenda of the General Assembly, to be called to the meeting within the prescribed time, to take part in the meeting and to exercise the right to vote
- To be informed of the state of ECU
- To participate in voting and elections
- To draw up proposals regarding the agenda of the General Assembly
- To nominate candidates to the Board and committees in ECU
- To participate in competitions, camps, courses, training and other events organized by ECU

9.2 Obligations of member federations

Member federations have the obligation:

- To comply at any time unreservedly with these statutes, regulations and decisions of ECU
- To have their executive organs and, if applicable, their disciplinary organs, elected by their respective General Assemblies
- To have adopted the promotion and care of the sport of Cheer as a task in their national bylaws (statutes)
- Upon request, submit a copy of their current bylaws (statutes), in English, to ECU
- Ensure that their bylaws (statutes) meet the rules of public interest in their own country and that they do not contradict the statutes of ECU
- To notify ECU, in writing, of any changes that affect the conditions of admission
- To pay their membership subscription in due time
- To act sportsmanlike
- Not to damage the reputation of the ECU

9.3 Rights and obligations of provisional members

Provisional members have the right:

- To participate in competitions, camps, courses, training and other events organized by ECU
- To take part in the meeting of the General Assembly

Provisional members have identical obligations as other member federations.

9.4 Rights and obligations of associate members

Associate members have rights and obligations that are determined and amended by the Board.

Associate members cannot have the following rights:

- The right to vote on the General Assembly
- The right to nominate candidates for the Board and committees
- The right to compete in the ECU competitions

Associate members holding a valid agreement with the ECU member federation in that country may have additional rights.

Article 10 Resignation

10.1 Resignation by members

A member may resign at any time, provided that at the time of resignation he has no outstanding liabilities to ECU and is a fully paid-up member.

10.2 Effect

Such resignation shall take effect immediately upon receipt of a written notice signed by the authorized persons. Resignations shall be reported at the next General Assembly.

10.3 Membership fees

Membership fees paid in any year are non-refundable.

Article 11 Suspension

11.1 Provisional suspension of members

The Board may provisionally suspend until the next General Assembly a member who fails to comply with a provision of the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of ECU, and in particular for the following reasons:

- a) Liabilities due to ECU, which are unpaid,
- b) Not having paid membership fees,
- c) Violating ECU statutes, other ECU regulations or ECU decisions,
- d) Damaging the reputation of the ECU.

11.2 Status of suspended member

Suspended member has no member's rights during the period of suspension. The Board may also decide to suspend only some of the member's rights for the period of the provisional suspension.

11.3 Decision

A final decision must be made by the next General Assembly, provided the provisional suspension is still in force at that time.

The General Assembly can suspend a member without prior provisional suspension by the Board.

Article 12 Expulsion

12.1 Expulsion of members

A member can be expelled from the ECU by a three-quarters majority (more than 75% of the votes validly cast) of the General Assembly, for the following reasons:

- a) Refusal to pay any liabilities due to the federation
- b) Repeated non-payment of membership fees due to the federation
- c) Non-compliance of the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of ECU
- d) Loss of recognition by the International Cheer Union (ICU)
- e) Loss of recognition by a country's National Olympic Committee, Confederation of Sports or the Sports Ministry

12.2 Notification

The ECU Board shall notify the member about the exclusionary reasons in writing at least 3 months before the General Assembly where the matter of the expulsion will be discussed. The notice shall explain the violations and give the reasons for the expulsion.

The member must be given a period of at least 2 months to submit written comments on the matter of expulsion.

The member shall be informed about the date and place of the next General Assembly where the matter of expulsion will be discussed.

12.3 Expulsion by new membership

A member federation (as defined in Article 7.1) is expelled immediately if the General Assembly accepts a new member federation from the same country.

12.4 Expulsion of associate members

The Board can expel associate members.

Article 13 Notices

13.1 Notice to members

A notice or notification to a member shall be deemed to have been properly received provided it was sent to the last address indicated by the member to the Board of ECU.

13.2 Notice of suspension

Notification regarding suspension, expulsion or dissolution shall always be sent by registered mail.

CHAPTER III – ADMINISTRATION OF THE FEDERATION

Article 14 Bodies

14.1 The General Assembly is the supreme and legislative organ of ECU.

14.2 The Board is the executive body.

A - General Assembly

Article 15 Definition, organization

15.1 The General Assembly is the meeting attended by all the members of ECU who are in good standing.

It is the supreme and legislative organ of ECU.

15.2 The General Assembly may be ordinary or extraordinary.

Article 16 Rights of the General Assembly

The General Assembly shall:

1. Amend the statutes and other regulations of ECU
2. Approve the minutes of the last General Assembly
3. Admit, suspend or expel members, and decide on membership status
4. Elect the Board members
5. Appoint auditors
6. Approve budgets, financial statements and yearly reports
7. Set the membership fees
8. Appoint honorary members
9. Make a decision on dissolution of the federation
10. Exercise any other business if approved by 2/3 of the members present at the General Assembly

Article 17 Delegates

17.1 The number of delegates per member that may attend the General Assembly is decided by the ECU Board.

17.2 A delegate may speak on behalf of another member only if specifically requested by that member and at the invitation of the President or the Chairman of the General Assembly.

17.3 All delegates other than the Board and official legal representatives of the member federation shall submit a Power of Attorney document signed by the person who officially represents the member federation according to the rules of country from which the federation originates.

17.4 Members attending the General Assembly must be in good standing.

17.5 Honorary, provisional and associate members may attend the meeting of the General Assembly but shall have no voice at these meetings.

Article 18 Quorums

18.1 A 1/3 of the member federations with voting rights and in good standing must be present at a meeting to constitute a quorum of the General Assembly.

18.2 The quorum of the business entailing changes of these statutes or the dissolution of the federation shall be 2/3 of the member federations present having voting rights and in good standing.

18.3 In case of no quorum a second General Assembly shall be held 24 hours after but not later than 3 days after the first General Assembly was due to convene, with the same agenda.

In that second General Assembly, no quorum is required, unless an item on the agenda proposes the amendment of these statutes, the election of the Board members, the expulsion of a member or the dissolution of ECU.

Article 19 Voting

19.1 Every member federation that is in good standing at the time of the meeting is entitled to one vote.

19.2 The attending delegates will be divided by the countries they represent. Only one delegate per country is entitled to vote at the General Assembly. This delegate shall be nominated by his/her federation and be affiliated with this federation. If the voting delegate is not a legal representative of the federation, he/she must have a written power of attorney signed by his/her federation legal representative.

19.3 Delegates may not represent more than one member. Voting by proxy or letter is not allowed.

19.4 Honorary members and associate members have no vote.

19.5 Board members have no vote. But the Board shall have a casting vote in the event of a tied vote.

19.6 The voting can be done by show of hand, voting machines or ballot papers.

19.7 Illegible, void, blank or improper votes and abstentions shall not be included in the count of validly cast votes.

19.8 Except in the case of elections, voting shall always be concluded by a show of hands or voting machines, unless 5 or more members request a secret ballot.

19.9 Acceptance of new members, suspension, expulsion, modification of the agenda and declarations of principles requires a relative majority of the votes validly cast.

19.10 Dissolution and amendments to the statutes require 2/3 of the votes validly cast (qualified absolute majority).

Article 20 Elections

20.1 Elections are held on the basis of an absolute majority (more than 50% of the votes validly cast).

20.2 If there is no absolute majority reached in the first ballot, a second round will be organized, under the rule of the relative majority (the highest number of votes validly cast). In the event of a tie, a third round shall take place after the elimination of the candidate who has obtained the least number of votes in the second round. In case of persisting equality between candidates, the election shall be decided by drawing lots.

20.3 Elections shall be done by secret ballots.

If only one candidate is proposed and General Assembly delegates entitled to vote have no objections, the candidate may be elected by acclamation.

Three (3) of the General Assembly delegates are appointed as electoral delegates by the General Assembly prior each election to supervise them. Candidates cannot be appointed as electoral delegates. The electoral delegates shall actively supervise elections procedure and ballots count and shall announce the results of the elections.

Article 21 Ordinary General Assembly

21.1 The meeting of the ordinary General Assembly is held annually.

21.2 No item shall be dealt with which does not appear on the agenda.

21.3 The Board sends a formal call to the members at least 2 months prior to the date of the opening of the General Assembly.

The call must be in writing and must include a provisional agenda.

21.4 All proposals to modify these statutes should be communicated in writing to the Board at least 6 weeks prior to the date of the start of the General Assembly.

21.5 Proposals to the General Assembly must be submitted in writing to the Board no later than 4 weeks prior to the date of the start of the General Assembly.

21.6 At least 2 weeks before the General Assembly, the Board shall circulate the agenda as prepared by the Board, together with the yearly report(s) and any other relevant documents. The budget and the accounts will be circulated immediately after having been audited, but, in any case, before the General Assembly.

Article 22 Agenda for Ordinary General Assembly

22.1 The agenda shall include following topics:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Roll call
3. Approval of the agenda
4. Approval of the Rules of Procedure for the meeting
5. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting
6. Yearly reports
7. Financial matters
8. Modification of statutes
9. Suspension or expulsion of a member
10. Decisions on changes in member status
11. New membership applications
12. Proposals submitted
13. Elections (if applicable)
14. Date and place of next meeting

22.2 The order of the agenda is determined by the Board.

22.3 The agenda may be modified by the General Assembly provided there is a 2/3 majority of the votes validly cast.

Article 23 Extraordinary General Assembly

23.1 An Extraordinary General Assembly may be convened at the request of the Board or upon receipt of a written request from at least 1/4 of the members in good standing.

23.2 The Extraordinary General Assembly shall take place no later than 2 months after the request.

23.3 Notification of the meeting will be sent out to the members at least 30 days in advance.

23.4 The notification shall detail the reasons for convening an Extraordinary General Assembly. No other business than what is specified in the notification shall be conducted at such Extraordinary Assembly.

Article 24 Conduct of meetings

24.1 The General Assembly is chaired by the President or by the Vice President if he/she is representing him/her in his/her absence.

24.2 The meetings of the General Assembly are not open to the public. However, the General Assembly can allow the public to attend the meeting if this is decided by a simple majority of the delegates represented. Likewise, the General Assembly can once again exclude the public from the meeting if this is decided by a simple majority.

24.3 The General Assembly is conducted according to the Rules of Procedure.

Article 25 Minutes

25.1 The minutes of the General Assembly are signed by the Chairman of the meeting and the person responsible for writing them.

25.2 The minutes shall be submitted to the Board for approval within 3 months after the General Assembly and sent out to the members within 5 months after the General Assembly.

25.3 No correction of or alteration to the minutes will be accepted without written notification to the Board, duly received and acknowledged, within 2 months of the date of the circulation of the minutes to the members.

25.4 The minutes are submitted for approval at the next General Assembly.

B – The Board

Article 26 Board members and election

26.1 The Board is the executive body of ECU. The Board executes the tasks set forward by the General Assembly.

26.2 The Board consists of 8 elected members:

Executive Members (Executive Board):

1. The President
2. The Vice President
3. The Secretary General

Regional Representatives, 1 from each of the following regions:

4. North: Finland, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Sweden, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia
5. West: England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales, Ireland, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxemburg
6. Middle: Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Liechtenstein
7. South: Spain, Andorra, Italy, San Marino, Greece, Monaco, Portugal, Croatia, Slovenia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Malta, Cyprus, Turkey, Israel
8. East: Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria, Belarus, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan

26.3 Each member of the Board shall originate from a different country (i.e. not more than one Board member from the same country).

Article 27 Eligibility, Term of office

27.1 Candidates to the positions of the Board are brought forward by their member federation. Proposals shall be submitted to the Board at least 6 weeks before the General Assembly where the elections will take place.

Proposals on candidates shall be accompanied by the candidates' CV (Curriculum Vitae).

27.2 The list of candidates and their CVs shall be circulated to the member nations before the General Assembly.

27.3 The candidates must have reached the age of majority in their own country and be in full possession of their civil rights.

27.4 Board members are appointed for a term of 4 years.

27.6 Elected members are not personally liable for the debts and other obligations when acting responsibly in official capacity.

Article 28 Replacement

28.1 If an elected Board member resigns before the end of her or his term or cannot fulfil her or his duties as Board member at full capacity, the remaining Board members have the right to appoint another eligible member.

28.2. A Board member co-opted as a replacement holds temporary office until the next General Assembly, where an election must be held for the replaced Board member.

28.2 The term of the newly elected Board member ends with her or his predecessor's term.

Article 29 Meetings, quorums

29.1 The quorum for meetings of the Board is met when the President plus 4 other Board members are present. Should the President be unable to attend, the quorum shall be satisfied with the Vice President and 4 other Board members.

29.2 The Board may decide to meet by means of phone conferences or video conferences.

29.3 A decision can be taken by written correspondence session. The correspondence session should be directed by the President. The decisions of the correspondence session must be included in the minutes of the next Board meeting.

29.4 Decisions are taken by simple majority. The Chairman has a casting vote in the event of a tied vote.

29.5 For legal business transactions the participation of 2 executive members of the Board is required.

29.6 Minutes shall be written from every Board meeting and must be signed by the President and the person writing the minutes.

Minutes from Board meetings shall be circulated to the members of the Board within 3 weeks after the meeting.

Article 30 Duties and powers of the Board

30.1 The Board is competent in all matters which are not reserved to other bodies by these statutes, regulations and directives of ECU.

30.2 The Board represents and commits ECU with regard to third parties. Executive members of the Board may individually represent ECU towards third parties.

30.3 The Board oversees the day to day operations of ECU.

30.4 The Board prepares and calls for General Assemblies.

30.5 The Board can send proposals to the General Assembly.

Article 31 Committees

31.1 The Board can appoint committees or representatives to perform certain tasks. The tasks, procedures and competences are set out in the regulations that are adopted by the General Assembly or the Board.

31.2 Committees can establish sub-committees with the approval of the Board. Committees and appointed individuals can be revoked at any time.

CHAPTER IV - FINANCES

Article 32 Membership fees

32.1 All member federations of ECU shall pay an annual membership fee.

32.2 The amount of the membership fees is decided upon by the General Assembly.

Article 33 Finances

33.1 The financial year of ECU is from 1/1 till 31/12 annually.

33.2 The Board proposes a one-year budget for the following year. The budget is adopted by the General Assembly.

33.3 The budget authorizes the Board, and on its behalf the treasurer, to make the expenditures for its commitments, as entailed in the budget.

33.4 Transfers within the budget can be made by the treasurer with approval of the Executive Board, as long as the total yearly amount is not changed.

33.5 Surpluses and savings are assigned for the support of sports and the federation's assets.

Article 34 Treasurer

34.1 The Board will appoint a treasurer who is responsible for managing the financial affairs of the ECU. This includes the preparation of detailed budgets of the previous years and the draft budget for the following year.

34.2 The treasurer is responsible for ensuring that accurate financial records are kept.

34.3 The treasurer issues invoices and receives and makes payments for the ECU as authorised within the annual budget.

34.4 The treasurer will prepare a full and accurate financial statement of each year to be presented to the General Assembly.

Article 35 Auditors

35.1 The General Assembly appoints 2 qualified auditors. Their duty is to check the accounts of the present calendar year and present their report to the next year General Assembly, with their conclusions and recommendations.

35.2 The auditors are appointed at each electoral General Assembly for the duration of three years. Each non-electoral General Assembly may replace one or both auditors.

Article 36 Modification of the Statutes

These statutes may only be modified by the General Assembly.

CHAPTER V - TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 37 Dissolution

36.1 The dissolution of ECU shall require an Extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly at which the proposed dissolution shall be the sole item on the agenda.

36.2 Any assets remaining after the dissolution of the federation shall, after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, be transferred to a charitable organization or a sports organization as determined by the General Assembly. Under no circumstances shall they be paid to or distributed among the members of the federation.

Article 38 Independence of Members

No discussion or voting by ECU shall infringe in any way in the freedom and independence of any member. Members shall at all time retain complete independence and control over all matters falling within their field of activity.

Article 39 Enforcement

39.1 These statutes were written to the founding of ECU in Paris on 16th of September 2010 and adopted by the first General Assembly of ECU on 3rd of July 2011 in Prague.

39.2 These statutes were modified by the Ordinary General Assembly of the ECU:

- on 29th of June 2012 in Amsterdam
- on 27th of June 2014 in Bonn
- on 26th of June 2015 in Ljubljana
- on 27th of June 2019 in St. Petersburg

and Extraordinary General Assembly:

- on 15th of May 2022 (correspondence session).



Aljaž Britvič
President of the European Cheer Union

