



Minutes of the GA 2023 Abertamy 03-04 June

1) Welcome

The President welcomes all the participants. Thanks the organizers and the Mayor for organizing the GA and the first World Cart Championship

2) Definition of the participants and list of votes.

The number of votes at the beginning of the GA is **14 from 8 countries**.

3) Adoption of the agenda.

- a. The President propose to move point 7 in the Agenda at the end.
- b. Agenda was unanimously adopted.

4) Adoption of the minutes of the last GA

- a. The minutes are unanimously adopted.

5) Reports of

- + President
- + Vice president and Treasures
- + Secretary and Animal Welfare Supervisor
- + Technical Director Sprint and Distance – Missing.
- + Technical director Cart
- + Veterinarian – Missing.

All reports had been unanimously adopted.

6) Discharging the members of the board.

The board was unanimously discharged for the work done over the year.

7) Admission of new members.





8) Request and proposals from the Board and Member countries.

Austria:

Proposal:

Rethinking trail lengths – in Sprint races

Due to the high temperatures in autumn in recent years, the maximum trail length for sprint cart championships, especially for large A / O teams, cannot be properly trained. (Even if the trail length has been most of the time shorted in recent years, it is still so in the announcements and this in turn prevents some mushers from participating.)

Proposal: shorten trail length on Cart Championships for Cat. A and O (Sprint).

Austria and Belgium for shorten the trails.

All other against for shorten the trails.

NO, It is musher problem how and when he/she will do trainings. In addition we ask the organizers to publish the trail lengths of our Championships as soon as possible.

The ratio of trail lengths between cart sprint races and snow sprint races should also be adjusted. (Sometimes there are hardly any differences in the trail lengths between autumn and winter, e.g. Cat. B, sometimes the trail length is (more than) doubled, e.g. Cat. Bike/Scooter to SJ/Pulka).

Proposal: SJ 1 sprint runs the same Trail as Cat. C. (not B).

Yes: 3

No: 4

Abs: 7

NO, too short.

And one general point for discussion: **Will be discussed in other issues.**

What can the FISTC do to become more attractive for mushers again?

Many Musher complain, that the participation on championships is becoming more and more unattractive for them.

Many complain about the conditions of participation, e.g. Dogs with FCI Pedigree (and DNA Test) must be shown in dog shows, (in former days there were at least some easier ways to get the dogs examined) – I know never-ending story but this is what musher are communicating when we ask them why they don't participate.

Now there are also discussions about DNA tests, Snow championships are announced too late etc.

Cart championships are currently well communicated / organized, but here too the starting fields are decreasing - what can we do about it?

Denmark:

Last year France told us about the test, you have completed for pure/not pure breed, Siberian Husky.

- Can you please tell us what you did ?

- who carried out the test ?

- which test-model was used.

We have an ongoing DNA-test in Denmark. Do France have any official scientific document for the conclusion of the test-project to share? It would be of major interest for our veterinarians and genetic-scientists.

What are the consequences for those dogs and owners/breeders with a FCI pedigree, that came out not pure breed (100%) in the test ?





Are we going to make some sanctions in FISTC?
If the dogs have FCI pedigree and dog pass, what can we do?

FISTC is not an authority, if a dog has an FCI pedigree and FISTC dog pass and an FCI judge confirmed the dog meets the standard we cannot do anything. This problem must be treated by the National Kennel Associations, and Breeders' Clubs not by an international sport federation. For Breeding in Austria – to get the “Zuchtzulassung” = Permit to breed, you need beside the medical examination (hips / eyes etc) also a DNA Profile.

France:

1 - About the executive board, elected for 3 years, by secret vote :
the years of the election, would it be possible to know the list of candidates before the GA ?
Maybe a call to candidates in all member countries, then candidatures should be sent to the board or somebody especially named for this role and after this redispached to all delegates. So they can discuss in their own country/federation about that before the D-day.
Nothing is written in the statutes about such a rule.

Adopted

If a Boardmember wants to leave the board, the Board will inform the delegates in advance. All the positions are opened and everyone can nominate his/her self in advance to the delegates.

2 - About the statutes, I think Canadian Eskimo dogs and Yakoutian Laikas should be added and in the race rules Yakoutian Laikas should be added.

Yakutian Laika could not be added because of the FCI status of the breed.

3 – After a small misunderstanding in the last cart MD championship about the claw break, the race rules should be clearer on this point, the problem was the use of words like allowed, recommended and mandatory.

Kilyan will answer!

Germany:

German association is applying for the Yakutian Laika to be included as a sled dog in cat. 2!
NO!

The Executive Board:

1. Proposal to abolish the "one country - two members" rule (Statutes § 6 Quality of Members, point 2.)

In the actual Statutes the above point says:

2. A country may be represented by 1 or 2 clubs. As from 3 clubs and more a Federation must be founded, promote dog sledding sport with pure- breed sled dogs. This Federation may ask for FISTC membership.

Unfortunately this rule has some disadvantages and also creates legal problems.

First of all – although we are talking about unification in the EU – the laws and legal rules about civil organisations as well as sporting clubs and federations are different in each countries.

For example in more countries the minimum requirement of forming a federation is to have 10 member clubs or associations. That's why in those countries where this law is in force and there are more than 2 but less than 10 clubs are interested they cannot join the membership in FISTC.

In those countries where legally possible to form a federation with less than 10 clubs our rule may create „forced federations” what is not a good solution.

The third reason why we should cancel this rule is simple: we need more members, we need new members to find new possibilities, new contacts, new locations for our Championships.

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Because of the above problems the FISTC Board recommends to cancel the „one country – two members” rule under the following conditions:

- the new members have to chose between our membership levels, according to their number of active mushers,
- those members who have less than 10 mushers and chose the associated member level, they became our associated member automatically - of course, if the GA supports the candidate to become a member – with the same rights and duties what our associated members have.
- those candidates who have more than 10 active mushers and would like to be a full right member of FISTC, they stay in candidate member status in their first 3 years - if the GA supports the candidate to become a member. The candidate members have to pay the normal membership fee (3,5 EUR/musher/year), they can enter to FISTC Championships without any limitations for normal entry fee, but in this term they have no voting right.

Summary: if a club send their applications to FISTC, first the Board checks the documents. If everything ok, the Secretary send the documents to the delegates to send their opinion. The delegates are voting online.

- **if the new member wants to be an associated member: if the delegates voting with yes, the new club became an associated member automatically (after they paid the membership fee).**
- **if the new member club would like to be a full right member: if the delegates are voting with yes the club gets the candidate member status till the next General Assembly. The new club must declare about their number of mushers and must pay the membership fee. After that can they enter their members to FISTC Championships. The next GA votes about their full right membership and voting rights.**

Against 1, Belgium

In Favour – All other 13 votes

Adopted

2. Proposal to increase the entry fee to our Sprint and Distance Championships

It's a fact to organize a Sprint or Distance Championship is much more expensive than to organize a Cart Championship. To help our future organizers to create a more balanced, stronger budget FISTC Board recommends to increase the adult entry fee to our snow Championships from 100 to 135 EUR. The sharing of this amount would be 100 EUR to the organizers, 35 EUR to FISTC.

The entry fee to our Cart Championships remain 100 EUR, as well as the junior entry fee (to both cart and snow Championships) remain 25 EUR.

Against: 0

Abs: 4 votes(France)

In favour: All other 10 votes

Adopted

3. Proposal for Category 3

In these moderate times, our organization also need to be moderate and flexible for all mushers that wants to come and participate in our upcoming Championships.

Also, you know that we had many cases in the past with the EU Dog Pass and complaints from some members about that.

According to the written above, we want to propose you to open for a test period of 2 years Category 3, where can be entered FCI sled dogs (Alaskan Malamute, Canadian Eskimo Dog, Greenland Dog, Samoyed, Siberian Husky, Yakutian Laika) that are find in the standard, but do not have official FCI pedigrees. In the newly opened “Category 3” the above breeds are racing against each other in one category, and this category





cannot be joined with the Category 1 and/or 2 (shortly: dogs without FCI pedigree cannot race against dogs with FCI pedigree).

The meaning of this category is to give possibility for those mushers who have sled dogs without FCI pedigree (e.g. the breeder is a member of a local kennel club, or those who have saved, adopted pure breed sleddogs, but they don't have a pedigree). We believe that with this proposal we will be more competitive according to the other organizations, we will have more mushers in our races and of course no complains regarding fake documents.

Summary : the category is opened only for rescued dogs. Document from the shelter/foundation is mandatory. The owner must have a document which proves the approximated age of the dog (e.g. : the date of adoption must be at least 1 year before the date of the first day of the race). In this category the FISTC Dog Pass is still mandatory an FCI judge must confirm the dog meets the standard by filling "NEW FORM (for dogs that are not able to go on show)" - available on FISTC website. In the category 3 the available title is "European/World Champion of Rescued Dogs". It is valid only for the recognized breeds by FCI from Group V, Section 1.

In Favour – 14 votes

Adopted

9) Race-calendar for the season 2023/2024 and future FISTC Championships.

- a. 2024 Sprint – Waiting for proposals
- b. 2024 Cart HU – November 15-17th November.
- c. 2025 Cart – France will give feedback.

10) Place of the next General Assembly 2024

Waiting for Hungary to confirm.

11) Establishment of the number of mushers by the member countries. Each member will give his number of mushers of 2023-2024 season.

	Number of mushers
Austria	20
Belgium	30
Bulgaria	10
Czech republic	60
Denmark	35
Estonia	
France	308
Germany	80
Hungary	32
Italy F.I.M.S.S.	?





Italy CIS	?
Luxemburg	
Moldova	?
Netherlands	
Romania CSCZ	?
Romania CSSB-N	?
Russia	?
Serbia	
Slovakia	?
Slovenia SC - Geronimo	?
Slovenia SKVVP- Slovenia	?
Switzerland	?

12) Other Issues

- **Kilyan Klotsch, the Technical Director of Cart Races proposed some changes and clarifications, but as they were not official proposals and in the other issues the GA cannot vote, we add these changes to our rules as recommendations.**
- **Laszlo Nagy, the Vice President and Treasurer asked the delegates to change our Statutes §17. The new financial regulation - which must be applied to all Board members - was adopted by every Board members except the Veterinaire, Laura Ravaschio. As – just like in the previous point – the GA cannot vote in other issues, the Veterinaire remain the member of the Executive Board of FISTC. In this case Laura Ravaschio must accept the financial regulations or next to thanking her for her work so far FISTC needs to find a new Veterinaire.**

