



CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

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ARTICLE I **Name & Objectives**

Section 1: The name of the Association shall be the IRISH AGILITY & DOG SPORTS ASSOCIATION

Section 2: The objectives of the Association shall be:

1. To develop and promote a variety of dog sports in Ireland
2. To encourage handlers from a broad spectrum of the population to become active in dog sports
3. To govern competitive trials and demonstrations in sanctioned dog sports under the rules of IADSA.
4. To become full members of the IFCS
5. To conduct educational programs on training, judging, and responsible dog ownership
6. To contribute to charitable organisations for the benefit of dogs.
7. To assist in the development and popularization of agility
8. To assist in the development of other kinds of dog sports (with the exclusion of blood sports)

Section 3: The Association shall operate as an association of members and no part of any profits or remainder or residue from dues or donations to the organisation shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual.

Section 4: The members of the organisation shall adopt and may from time to time revise such by-laws as may be required to carry out these objectives.

ARTICLE II **Membership**

Section 1: Eligibility

Membership shall be done by a registration of handlers and their dogs. There shall be one type of membership open to all persons (handlers under eighteen years of age will need the written permission of a legal guardian) who subscribe to the purposes of this Association. While membership is to be unrestricted as to residence, the Association's primary purpose is to be representative of handlers competing in IADSA recognised dog sports.

Section 2: Dues

Membership dues shall be in an amount determined from time to time by a majority vote of members in good standing who are present at a special meeting called for that purpose. Dues shall be payable on or before the first day of January of each year and paid without penalty by January 31st.

No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year.

- (a) An annual membership fee will be charged at the following rates:
 - (i) €10 – Individual Membership
 - (ii) €15 – Joint Membership
 - (iii) €25 – Family Membership
- (b) Membership is by handler and includes free registration of all dogs in the handler's ownership.
- (c) Family membership includes any number of handlers in the one family, or handlers who run dogs not in their ownership. This includes free registration of dogs.
- (d) Handlers, and by association their dogs, need only register once annually, irrespective of the number of IADSA sanctioned sports they are competing in.

Section 3: Election to Membership

Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form approved by the committee and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by this Constitution and Bylaws. Accompanying the application the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year. If dues are paid after the AGM, said dues will carry to the next fiscal year.

Section 4: Termination of Membership.

Membership may be terminated:

- (a) By lapsing. A membership will be considered lapsed and automatically terminated if such members' dues remain unpaid 30 days after the first day of the beginning of the fiscal year. In no case may a person whose dues are unpaid be entitled to vote at any meeting.
- (b) By resignation. Any member in good standing may resign from IADSA upon written notice to the secretary.
- (c) By expulsion. A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VII of this Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE III **Meetings**

Section 1: Association Meetings

Meetings of the Association may be held from time to time as determined by a majority vote of the Committee, with at least 4 meetings per year, with the annual meeting considered as one such meeting. Written notice of such meetings and the proposed agenda shall be provided by the secretary at least one week prior to the date of the meeting.

Section 2: Annual Meeting

The annual general meeting shall be held with 15 months of the previous AGM on the written notice of 21 days, which time committee members for the ensuing year shall be elected by secret written ballot from among those nominated in accordance with section 4 of the Article. They shall take office immediately upon the conclusion of the election and each retiring officer shall turn over to his / her successor in office all properties and records relating to that office with 30 days after the election.

Section 3: Special Committee Meeting

Special Committee meetings may be called by any member of the committee. The Secretary must call such a meeting upon receipt of a petition signed by at least five members of the Association in good standing. Written notice of such a meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least 5 days and not more than 15 days prior to the date of the meeting. The notice shall state the purpose of the meeting, and no other business may be transacted thereat.

Section 4: Committee Meetings

All Committee members must attend 50% of committee meetings throughout their term of office. Failure to comply with this condition means that the committee member is not eligible to serve on the committee for the following year.

ARTICLE IV **Officers & Committee**

Section 1: Committee

The committee shall be comprised of a Chairperson, Assistant Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, and at least five committee members. The elected committee will have the power to co-opt up to two people to the committee to assist with specific projects and skills requirements for up to 10 months at a time.

As the Association incorporates other dog sports, in addition to agility, sub-committees may be appointed to govern the rules of the sports, running competitions etc. It is the responsibility of the committee to appoint sub-committees. Sub-committees specific to certain sports should be made up of people involved in these sports.

Section 2: Officers

The Association officers, consisting of the Chairperson, Assistant Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, shall serve in their respective capacities both with regard to the Association and its meetings.

- (a) The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Association and of the committee, and shall have the duties and powers normally appurtenant to the Office of the Chairperson
- (b) The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the committee, keep minutes of the proceedings, read and file all communications, and other papers, issue notices of meetings when required or directed, conduct the correspondence and keep copy of the same. The Secretary shall keep the membership register updated.
- (c) The Treasurer shall attend all meetings of the committee and shall receive all funds of the Association, and shall deposit same in the prescribed bank account. Disbursement of funds from this account shall be by cheque. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection and recording of dues and shall keep a true and accurate record of all financial transactions.

Section 3: Vacancies

Any vacancies occurring on the committee during the year shall be filled by a person appointed by a majority vote of the committee until the next annual general meeting. Appointments shall occur at the committee's first regular meeting following the creation of such vacancy, or at a Special Committee Meeting called for that purpose.

Section 4: Resignations

Any officer may resign at any time by giving a written notice to the Secretary. In the case of the Secretary resigning, written notice must be given to the Chairperson. Such resignations shall take effect at the time specified therein; and unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

Section 5: Termination

In the event of an officer or a committee member failing to diligently perform his/her duties as such, the committee shall have the authority to remove that officer or committee member by a majority vote. Written notice of the meeting shall be given to all committee members specifically stating the purpose of said meeting. Any vacancy created by such removal by the committee members shall be filled pursuant to Article IV, Section 3.

ARTICLE V

The Association Year, Voting, Elections & Nominations

Section 1: Association Year

The Association year will run from the first day of January to the last day of December.

Section 2: Voting

At the AGM or at a special meeting, voting shall be limited to those members in good standing whose dues are paid for the current year. Each member shall be entitled to one vote at any meeting of the Association, at which he or she is present. Members 18 years or older are eligible to vote at the AGM.

Section 3: Elections

The nominated candidates receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected.

Section 4: Nominations

All nominations to positions of officers and/or committee members shall only be accepted from persons over the age of 18 years, and who is a fully subscribed member of the Association for the previous year. Nominees must be in attendance at the AGM to be considered for election.

If the number of written nominations falls below the required number, it will be at the discretion of the outgoing officers to accept nominations from the floor during the AGM.

No person may be a candidate in the Association election who has not been nominated. Nominations should be submitted in writing, to the Secretary, at least one week prior to the AGM. Nominations must be seconded at the AGM. If there are more nominations than positions available, a secret ballot will be held at the AGM to determine the new committee and officers. A couple of independent scrutinizers will be required to calculate the votes.

ARTICLE VI **Committees**

Section 1:

The elected committee may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Association in such matters as agility shows, training classes, membership and other fields which may well be served by committees. Such committees shall always be subject to the final authority of the officers. Special committees may also be appointed by the elected committee to aid it on particular projects.

Section 2:

Any committee appointment may be terminated by a majority vote of the elected committee upon written notice to the appointee; and the elected committee may appoint successors to that person whose services have been terminated.

ARTICLE VII **Discipline**

Section 1:

Members with criminal convictions for cruelty to animals will have their membership terminated.

Section 2:

Members who are found guilty of cheating, or other misconducts may be suspended from IADSA events for a period of time.

Section 3:

Disciplinary sanctions are to be decided upon by the committee or a disciplinary sub-committee to be appointed by the committee.

Article VIII **Amendments**

Amendments to the Constitution and By-laws may be proposed to the Committee, or by written petition addressed to the Secretary and signed by 20% of the registered members in good standing. Amendments proposed by such petition shall be promptly considered by the Committee and must be submitted to the members with a vote within three months of the date when the petition was received by the Secretary.

ARTICLE IX Dissolution

The Association may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the members. In the event of the dissolution of the Association, other than for purposes of reorganisation, whether voluntary or involuntary or by operation of the law, none of the property or assets of the Association shall be distributed to any members of the Association but after payment of the debts of the Association its property and assets shall be given to a charitable and/or non-profit organization for the benefit of dogs as selected by the Committee.

