



Lausanne, 22 April 2021

To: National Associations  
Continental Federations

Dear Members,

## **47th Ordinary Congress Proposed amendments to the FIH Statutes**

During its meeting on 18 March 2021, the FIH Executive Board agreed to additional FIH Statutes changes. In particular, we would like to draw your attention to the following changes:

### **1. Adding possibility to hold a virtual Congress (for future Congresses beyond 2021) and virtual FIH Executive Board Meetings**

Regarding the 47th FIH Congress that will be held virtually via an online platform, FIH based in Lausanne, can rely on a special Swiss law adopted in early 2020 which allows all Switzerland-based organisations to hold their annual general meetings by this method.

As for future Congresses and FIH Executive Board meetings, FIH proposes the following amendments within the Statutes in order to have the possibility to hold these meetings virtually.

Examples of amendments (not conclusive):

Art. 7.5 a): *The Executive Board shall meet in person or by videoconference at least three (3) times each calendar year on such dates and at such times and places as the President decides.*

Art. 6.2 a): *Ordinary and Extraordinary meetings of Congress may be held in person, by teleconference, by videoconference or by another means of communication.*

Art. 6.3 b): *When a Congress is held by teleconference, by videoconference or by another means of communication, voting by correspondence and/or online is permitted.*

These amendments were inserted with the aim to:

- ensure maximum flexibility so that we can communicate with each other effectively;
- not to rely on any specific national legislation to hold a Congress virtually: instead, this possibility would exist based on FIH's own internal rules; and
- help FIH to evolve as a modern and responsible global organisation while achieving both cost efficiencies and environmental objectives, such as by reducing the emission of greenhouse gases.

## 2. Adding E-Games protection

All IFs are aware of the increase in the global interest in e-sports and gaming, accelerated during the Covid pandemic, and the threat from commercial entities to the governance of “virtual” versions of International Federations sports and disciplines including simulations.

- 1st step: Congress May 2021 to extend FIH’s purpose and powers within its Statutes to any virtual or e-gaming activities and competitions for the future (followed by examples of other IFs, such as UCI, ITTF, IIHF, etc).

### Examples of amendments:

**Art. 1.4 d):** *to control the organisation and scheduling of competitions (including, without limitation, **any virtual or e-gaming competitions**, “world” or “international” championships and other events purporting to be “world” or “international” events or to determine “world” or “international” champions of Hockey), so as to ensure that the sporting calendar is organised and scheduled in accordance with the best long-term interests and priorities of the sport as a whole;*

**Art. 5.1 d):** *organise and/or sanction the organisation of International Events, including (without limitation) **any virtual or e-gaming competitions as well as** qualifying competitions for the Olympic Games, and take responsibility for the technical control and direction of Hockey competitions staged as part of the Olympic Games;*

If you have any comments or objection to the above proposal, we kindly ask you to do so until 6 May 2021 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](mailto:legal@fih.ch).

It is our intention to propose approving all the Statute 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.

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,

Thierry Weil  
CEO

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'TW', written over a faint blue grid background.

Annex: proposed amended Statutes  
Explanatory Table