

Football Supporters Europe (FSE)

Statutes

English Translation

Preamble

The work of FSE is based upon the understanding that the success of football as a global spectator sport rests on the participation and contribution of its supporters, and that it is crucial that these supporters have a collective voice and influence within the game.

Football is considered part of culture, and often in particular of youth culture. The changing nature of modern football, including its continuing commercialisation, has given rise to some tension between supporters on the one hand, and clubs and football authorities on the other. Some communities and social groups feel increasing alienation and exclusion from football, and there remain significant problems with racism and violence.

Conversely, where there is a decent level of self-organisation among football fans, and where there are opportunities for supporters to take part as equal partners in genuine dialogue; where supporters' concerns and interests are taken seriously; and where supporters are involved in decision-making processes – then there can be a perceptible improvement in atmosphere, an increase in community involvement, and a reduction in anti-social behaviour.

The activities of FSE are therefore based upon the following principles:

- An opposition to all forms of discrimination of any individuals on any grounds including: origin, ability, religion and belief, gender, sexual orientation and age
- The rejection of violence, both verbal and physical
- The empowerment of grass roots football fans
- Fostering a positive fan and football culture including values such as fair play and good governance

The success of football crosses national boundaries, as indeed do its problems. The existence of an European organisation of football supporters, enabling transnational exchanges of experience, networking and democratic representation, will have a real impact in addressing the social problems affecting the game, and in promoting positive values of sport and social inclusion.

With this in mind, FSE adopts the following statutes:

§ 1 Name, Place of Residence, Financial Year

1. The member association will be named „Football Supporters Europe e.V.“, with the abbreviation “FSE”
2. Its place of residence is Hamburg and it should be registered with the official register of member associations.
3. The financial year is the calendar year.

§ 2 Tax Shelter

1. Football Supporters Europe pursues only and directly non-profit-making and beneficant purposes according to the section „Tax Shelter Purposes“ of the (German) Tax Code. The purpose of the member association is to foster international goodwill & understanding, tolerance, equal opportunities of women and men and democratic principles. The member association is acting selflessly; it doesn't pursue profitable interests in the first place.
2. Funds of the member association must be used for purposes related to its statutes only. Members of the member association in their role as members should not be granted benefits out of the funds of the member association. They are not entitled to benefits out of the funds of the member association when they quit. Nobody must benefit from expenditures, which aren't related to the purposes of the member association, or disproportionately high salaries.

§ 3 Aims and Responsibilities of the member association

The purpose of the statutes is accomplished by

1. Fostering democratic principles and international understanding by organising an independent, representative network for football fans in Europe, organised according to democratic principles, which provides both a platform for an exchange about their culture, in particular in the field of sport and the representation and determination of interests, based on the core principles of FSE, especially in dialogue with institutions that deal with football fans at European level. (for instance, by organising meetings of the network members, where different (fan) cultural customs and initiatives are presented; by informing and campaigning on (fan)cultural customs and interests in different countries; by organising mediation and info events between representatives of football authorities and network members from different countries)
2. Encouraging responsible self-organisation at the grass roots, especially amongst younger football fans, as part of overall democratic education and conveying of core values such as international goodwill, anti-discrimination and the rejection of violence.
3. The organisation of international workshops, presentations, seminars and networking events for football fans and institutional representatives in football on a regular bases, dealing with issues such as the organisation of sport as well as the presentation of and the exchange on (fan) culture, customs and successful initiatives in the field of sport/football in different countries across Europe (for instance, on issues of the organizational structure of football clubs and associations, fans' groups or ownership structures in clubs in different countries)
4. Providing preventive information and support services for football supporters at international matches, especially so-called "fans' embassy services" as recognized method in the field of prevention of violent and discriminatory spectator behaviour.
5. Supporting and giving advice to fans' groups, fans' organisations and fan-related initiatives especially in Europe and provide assistance with the establishment of projects, such as intercultural exchange programmes to exchange culture and customs, in particular between (young) football fans in different countries, e.g. with fans' projects and integrative community football projects.
6. Public relations and campaigning by using football as a platform to convey values such as democracy, opposition to all forms of discrimination (e.g. exclusion, racism, anti-semitism, sexism, homophobia etc), fair play and gender equality.
7. The provision of publications and newsletters on activities of the member association and activities and campaigns of football fans in other countries
8. The provision of a data base on legal aspects, guidelines, regulations and core articles on fan-related issues and the organisation of sport (e.g. on issues of the organizational structure of clubs and associations, ownership structures in clubs and cultural forms of expression of (fans')groups in different countries)

The member association can employ full-time or part-time employees for the implementation of its tasks

§ 4 Membership

1. Every natural and legal person as well as informally organised groups with a named delegate for FSI can become members of the member association, given that they are active in the fans' sector and actively supporting the overall objectives of the member association, consenting to the core principles of the member association and actively support these values.
2. The acceptance as a member is dependent on the submission of an application (also possible via e-mail or online) with the representation of the FSE-Committee according to the statutes, which is the FSE Coordination.
3. The membership terminates with the death of the member, the lapse of their legal personality, their voluntary resignation, with the expulsion from the member association as well as with the dissolution of FSE.

4. The voluntary resignation of a member can be carried out by this member at any time without notice for the end of the financial year by submitting a written statement to the FSE Committee respectively the FSE Coordination.
5. A member can be expelled or prevented from joining the organisation by a decision of the FSE Committee or the FSE Coordination, if they act counter to the objectives and core principles of the member association, or if they don't fulfill their obligations towards the member association. The member can launch an appeal against this decision with the ordinary AGM. The AGM makes the final decision. The member in question must be invited to this assembly and should be heard. The principle of a two-thirds majority of the members present applies in these cases.

§ 5 Rights and Obligations of members

1. Football Supporters International e.V. can collect membership fees. The sort and amount of the membership fees have to be determined and adopted by the AGM in form of membership fee regulations, following a respective proposal of the FSE-Committee.
2. Members have the right to participate in the assemblies and events of the club as well as to make free use of the services (e.g. consultancy, information) and publications provided, unless stated otherwise.
3. Members are obligated to
 - a. act according to the core principles of FSE, support them and encourage other members to do the same.
 - b. fulfill and support the objectives and tasks of the member association
 - c. to pay membership fees when due and where required and fulfill their obligations as decided.

§ 6 Entities of the member association

The entities of the member association are:

1. The Annual General Meeting (AGM)
2. FSE-Committee
3. FSE -Coordination / Geschäftsleitung
4. On-topic divisions

§ 7 Annual General Meeting

1. The ordinary AGM must be held at least once a year and must be convened by the FSE -Committee respectively the FSE Coordination.
2. The FSE-Committee and the FSE-Coordination must present an annual report and a financial report at the AGM. After that, the AGM decides about discharging the FSE-Committee.
3. AGMs have to be convened in writing by the FSE-Committee or the FSE-Coordination at least eight weeks before the assembly.
4. Extraordinary AGMs must be convened in writing by the FSE-Committee or the FSE-Coordination, if required in the interest of the member association or demanded by at least ¼ of the total number of votes of all members.
5. After the end of the term of office of the FSE-Committee, the new FSE-Committee is to be elected by the AGM.
6. The AGM is the highest entity of the member association and entitled to give directives to the FSE-Committee.

§ 8 Voting System

1. All properly admitted members present who have reached the age of 18 years, have the right to vote at the AGM. The weight of each vote depends primarily on the geographic sphere of activities of the respective members.

- a. With natural persons, the vote is restricted to one vote per member
- b. Legal entities, informally organized fans' groups and fan-related organisations and initiatives which are primarily active at local level, should be represented by an appointed delegate in the AGM, or a substitute, if the delegate appointed is prevented for any reason. The vote for delegates of locally active members is restricted to three votes per member at the AGM.
- c. Legal entities, informally organized fans' federations and fan-related organisations and initiatives which are primarily active at national level, should be represented by an appointed delegate in the AGM, or a substitute, if the delegate appointed is prevented for any reason. The vote for delegates of members active at national level is restricted to 10 votes per member at the AGM.

The FSE-Coordination determines the final classification of each member by taking the statements made in the membership application form into account.

§ 9 FSE-Committee

1. The FSE-Committee consists of
 - a number of members elected by the AGM. The number of elected members is determined according to the conditions stated in §9 paragraph 2.
 - the FSE-Coordination/executive board
 - the directors of each on-topic division
2. The FSE-Coordination and the directors of each on-topic division are represented within the FSE-Committee, each with one permanent seat per entity. The final size of the FSE-Committee should always provide at least a two-thirds majority of elected representatives. The number of FSE-Committee members to be elected by the AGM is determined by the number of permanent seats at the time of elections whereby the percentage of 1/3 needs to be added to this number.
3. The number of elected members from one country in the FSE-Committee is restricted to the maximum number equaling one third of the total number of elected representatives within the FSE-Committee
4. The posts within the FSE-Coordination and the directing posts in the on-topic divisions can be exercised in form of a full-time employment.
5. The elected members of the FSE-Committee are elected by the AGM with a simple majority for a period of one year. They remain in office until a new FSE-Committee is elected.
6. The re-election of representatives is possible.
7. Every member of the FSE-Committee must be a member of the member association or an appointed representative according to the statutes and §30 BGB (=German Civil Law Code).
8. The FSE-Committee respectively the representatives appointed according to the statutes have the following responsibilities above all:
 - a. development of an annual budget plan, a potential action plan as well as an annual report and a financial report
 - b. Convocation of the AGM
 - c. Preparing and implementing the AGM decisions.
 - d. In between the AGMs, the FSE-Committee respectively the representatives appointed according to the statutes have to take up the interests of the member association and make decisions that can't be postponed until the AGM.
9. Each member of the FSE-Committee has one vote. Unless stated otherwise in the statutes, decisions of the FSE-Committee are made with a simple majority of the eligible votes counted. With decisions concerning on-topic divisions or the executive board (FSE-Coordination), the respective representatives according to the statutes are not entitled to vote regarding issues of

- the dismissal of the respective person
- the dissolution of their on-topic division
- the existence, nature or dimensions of their full-time employment

§ 10 FSE-Coordination/ Geschäftsleitung

1. The FSE-Committee appoints and has the right to dismiss a chief executive/Geschäftsleitung, resident at the FSE-Coordination Office as legal representative according to the statutes and §30 BGB (German Civil Law Code)
2. In case of doubt, the actual authority of the FSE-Coordination/chief executive concerns all legal transactions, which are involved in the sphere of duties allocated to the executive board by the FSE-Committee.
3. The FSE-Coordination is represented with a permanent seat within the FSE-Committee
4. The FSE-Committee as a superordinated entity is entitled to giving directives to the FSE-Coordination and to control its work on a regular basis.
5. On a regular basis, but at least once every three months, the FSE-Coordination must inform the FSE-Committee of the current situation of the member association.

§11 On-topic Divisions

1. An on-topic division serves the more efficient organisation and further development of specific areas in the framework of the objectives and responsibilities of FSE, which require a certain level of expertise.
2. The establishment or dissolution of a on-topic division depends on a two-thirds majority decision of the FSE-Committee.
3. The structure of a on-topic division can adopt various forms of possible shapes. Internally, it can be structured both membership-based and like a loose network or with a committee structure or like a consultancy service.
4. Every on-topic division appoints a director/coordinator who represents the division within the FSE-Committee with a permanent seat. The directors/coordinators of the divisions are to be considered legal representatives of the FSE-Committee according to the statutes. In case of doubt, their actual authority involves all legal transactions occurring in the ordinary course of business of their respective division.
5. The annual and financial reports for the budget of each on-topic division have to be submitted with the FSE-Committee at the end of each financial year and as interim report in good time before the AGM, to allow them to be included in the overall reports.
6. The FSE-Committee is entitled to giving directives to the on-topic divisions.

§ 12 Recording of Decisions

All decisions made in meetings of the FSE-Committee or at the AGM must be put down in writing and be signed by the individually appointed recorder.

§ 13 Change of Statutes and Liquidation

1. The AGM decides about all questions regarding the statutes. Changes of statutes require a two-thirds majority decision of all members present.
2. Suggestions for amendments to the statutes must be sent in writing to the FSE Coordination at least 30 days prior to the AGM. Suggestions for amendments to the statutes need to be published seven days prior to the AGM.

3. The liquidation of the member association can only be decided at a special AGM convened for this purpose at least one month in advance, with a two-thirds majority of all members present.
4. In case of a liquidation or the closing of the member association or in case of a lapse of the tax shelter, all assets have to be transferred to a public body or another tax-privileged body for the purpose of fostering international understanding and sport.

§ 14 Commencement of the statutes and preliminary regulations

1. These statutes will come into effect on the day of their registration with the official register for member associations.
2. The entities of the member association can make decisions based upon the statutes already before the registration which will come into effect with the registration.
3. The entities and representatives in charge at the time when these statutes were decided, continue their work until the AGM elects other legal successors.