



EEDA Constitution – 24th August 2025

Originally agreed by the ESSDA Members in the General Assembly 12.07.2007, Antwerp.

Last amended by EEDA Members in the General Assembly held by video conference on 24.08.2025

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| 1 | TITLE |
| 1.1 | The name of our association is the European Equality Dance Association, also to be known as EEDA. |
| 2 | FOUNDATION AND DURATION |
| 2.1 | The Association was founded on the 18th February 2007 in London, United Kingdom and established for an indefinite period. |
| 2.2 | The Association is an unincorporated membership association formed under the laws of England and Wales. |
| 3 | INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY |
| 3.1 | The General Membership is the highest decision-making body of the Association. |
| 3.2 | The General Membership makes its decisions by a vote at General Meetings or through Referendums initiated by the Board. |
| 3.3 | Unless the Constitution requires otherwise, decisions of the General Membership require an absolute majority (at least one vote more than 50%) of the General Membership participating at a General Meeting or in a Referendum. |
| 4 | LANGUAGE |
| 4.1 | The official language of the Association in correspondence, General Meetings and meetings is, in principle, English. |
| 5 | GEOGRAPHY |
| 5.1 | EEDA concentrates its efforts within European Countries, while also supporting other individuals and organisations with similar goals throughout the rest of the world. |
| 6 | MEMBERSHIP YEAR |
| 6.1 | The membership year of the Association starts on 1st January and ends on 31st December. |
| 7 | USED WORDS |
| 7.1 | <u>Association</u> : The European Equality Dance Association, also to be known as EEDA. |
| 7.2 | <u>Board</u> : The Board of the Association. |
| 7.3 | <u>Delegate</u> : A representative of an Extraordinary Member who is duly authorised by that Member to act on behalf of that Member and to cast its votes in General Meetings and Referendums. |
| 7.4 | <u>Equality Dance</u> : Partner dancing in which dancers can dance with whomever they like, and in whichever role (leader or follower) they like, regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation. |
| 7.5 | <u>European Country</u> : Any country whose national sports teams, in any sport, participate in European competitions as defined by the regional or global governing bodies of those sports. Further details may be specified in the Bylaws. |
| 7.6 | <u>General Assembly</u> : The sum of the Members participating at a General Meeting of the General Membership; this may be an Annual General Meeting (AGM) or an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). |
| 7.7 | <u>General Membership</u> : The sum of all Members. It is the highest decision-making body of the Association. |
| 8 | RESPECT DIFFERENCES |
| 8.1 | EEDA will treat everyone with the same courtesy and respect regardless of their actual or perceived sex, gender identity, skin colour, ethnic or national origins, sexual or political orientation, religion, nationality, language, disability, or any other characteristic. |
| 8.2 | EEDA will respect differences between <u>organisations</u> , concerning nationality, language, political orientation, liaisons with other dance (sport) or sport organisations or organisations for LGBTQIA+ emancipation. |



9 LGBTQIA+ IDENTITIES

- 9.1 EEDA acknowledges that the base of Equality Dance and Equality dance sport is the expression of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, inter and asexual identities and relationships. This will be considered as part of any decisions, guidelines and developments.

10 THE MISSION AND GOALS OF EEDA ARE:

- 10.1 To encourage a thriving Equality ballroom and latin dance sport environment, including the grassroots dance community that supports competitive dance sport.
- 10.2 To work towards events and tournaments being a safe space for all, especially LGBTQIA+ people.
- 10.3 To develop and maintain a level of quality and attractiveness of competitions to dancers and audiences and to encourage the use of guidelines for Equality Dance competitions.
- 10.4 To encourage the use of these guidelines as standards, specifically at, but not limited to, the ballroom and latin dance events at the EuroGames.
- 10.5 To provide a forum for communication, support, coordination and development for our members and other people and organisations interested in Equality dance sport.
- 10.6 To work towards a climate in dancing and dance sport where people can express who they are, regardless of sexual orientation, skin colour, ethnic or national origins, religion, nationality, sex, gender identity, disability or any other characteristic.
- 10.7 To promote the use of inclusive language, in the context of Equality Dance.
- 10.8 To support other individuals and organisations with similar goals.

11 GENDER POLICY OF EEDA

- 11.1 EEDA affirms and supports, together with Federation of Gay Games and the European Gay and Lesbian Sport Federation, the rights of dancers to dance and compete as their true selves and to compete as a dancer in their self-identified gender or the gender with which they feel most comfortable.
- 11.2 EEDA also recognises that in order to safeguard fair play in a competitive scenario, the introduction of certain competition categories may be necessary.

12 CONSTITUENCY OF MEMBERSHIP

- 12.1 The Association consists of
- a. Ordinary Members,
 - b. Extraordinary Members,
 - c. Associate Members,
 - d. Honorary Members.
- 12.1.1 Ordinary Members are individuals who accept, abide by and comply with the mission statement of the association and who live in a European Country or elect to dance for a European club or country. (Details in the Bylaws)
- 12.1.2 Extraordinary Members are legal entities, clubs and groups located in a European Country, who are committed to supporting Equality Dance or LGBTQIA+ sports including Equality Dance or are organizing an international Equality Dance competition, who accept, abide by and comply with the mission statement of the Association.
- 12.1.3 Associate Members are:
- a. other individuals, who are interested in engaging with EEDA, including receiving communications and other information, and who accept, abide by and comply with the mission statement of the Association.
 - b. other legal entities, clubs or groups who support our mission and who are interested in engaging with EEDA and receiving communications and other information.
- 12.1.4 Honorary Members are individuals who have rendered outstanding services because of their extraordinary contribution to the equality dancing community at large.



13 MEMBERSHIP

- 13.1 One can become:
 - 13.1.1 An Ordinary, Extraordinary or Associate Member by submitting a completed application form to the Board for approval by the Board or a membership committee, and paying the appropriate membership fee.
 - 13.1.2 An Honorary Member by appointment of the General Assembly with a majority of two thirds of the votes cast, following a nomination by a Member or by the Board.
- 13.2 Refusal by the Board of a membership application
 - 13.2.1 If an application for membership is refused, the Board or a membership committee must inform the applicant, and the General Assembly at the next General Meeting, giving the reasons for the refusal.
 - 13.2.2 The General Assembly may still grant membership to the applicant by a majority vote (50% plus one vote of those participating).

14 ENDING OF MEMBERSHIP

- 14.1 Membership of the Association ends by:
 - 14.1.1 Death, if the Member is a natural person.
 - 14.1.2 Bankruptcy or dissolution of the legal body of the Member.
 - 14.1.3 Written withdrawal of membership.
 - 14.1.4 Exclusion of the Member by a written notice of the Board or a membership committee.
 - 14.1.5. Failure to pay the annual membership fee in time (Details in the Bylaws).
- 14.2 Withdrawal by a Member
 - 14.2.1 A Member may withdraw at any point by informing the General Secretary in writing.
- 14.3 Exclusion by the Association
 - 14.3.1 Exclusion of a Member by the Board occurs when a Member acts contrary to the Association's rules or decisions, or contrary to the Constitution, or when a Member harms the Association in an unreasonable way.
 - 14.3.2 The Board shall inform the Member in due course of this decision in writing.
 - 14.3.3 The excluded Member shall have the right to appeal this decision and address the General Membership at the following General Meeting.

15 OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS

- 15.1 There is an obligation to pay an annual membership fee, should one be set in the Bylaws, for:
 - 15.1.1 Ordinary Members and
 - 15.1.2 Extraordinary Members.
- 15.2 There is no obligation to pay an annual membership fee for Associate and Honorary Members.
- 15.3 Associate Members pay a minimum fee covering the costs incurred on their behalf.
- 15.4 Members are not entitled in principle to a refund of their membership fee once their membership has ended.
- 15.5 The amount of the membership fee is set in the Bylaws.

16 RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

- 16.1 All Members are entitled to attend General Meetings
 - 16.1.1 All Members are entitled to express their opinions at General Meetings and other meetings.
- 16.2 Appointment of Members
 - 16.2.1 Voting by proxy, where possible, is described in the Bylaws.
 - 16.2.2 Each Extraordinary Member has the right to appoint Delegates for General Meetings as specified in the Bylaws.



16.3 Voting rights

16.3.1 An Ordinary Member has one vote.

16.3.2 An Extraordinary Member has at least one vote as specified in the Bylaws.

16.3.3 An Associate Member has no vote.

16.3.4 An Honorary Member has one vote.

16.3.5 The representation of Members and the casting of votes are specified in the Bylaws.

17 GENERAL MEETING

17.1 The Annual General Meeting must be held each year between 1st April and 31st August somewhere in Europe.

17.2 Convocation

17.2.1 Notice of an Annual General Meeting shall be given in writing by the Board to all Members no later than four (4) weeks prior to the scheduled date of that meeting.

17.2.2 The notice of the Annual General Meeting will include the agenda and any proposed amendments to the Constitution or the Bylaws.

17.3 The agenda for the Annual General Meeting must include as a minimum,

17.3.1 The Board's Annual report.

17.3.2 The Financial Report to be presented by the Treasurer or by his/her designee

17.3.3 The budget for the forthcoming year.

17.3.4 The determination of the annual membership fee.

17.3.5 Election of Board members.

17.3.6 Plans for the coming year.

17.4 Chair and minutes

17.4.1 The outgoing President or a chairperson to be appointed by the Board will chair the meeting.

17.4.2 The General Secretary or a person to be appointed by the Board will take the minutes of the meeting

17.5 The cash-controllers committee

17.5.1 The cash-controllers committee, if there is one, is elected by the General Assembly. It consists of at least two people.

17.5.2 The cash-controllers committee reports its findings to the General Assembly.

17.5.3 The cash-controllers committee has the right, upon request, to inspect any financial documents of the Association.

17.6 The General Assembly can discharge the outgoing Board after approval of the Annual Report and the Board's accounts for its management activities and expenditures.

17.7 Quorum

17.7.1 Members holding a minimum number of votes must participate at a General Meeting (Annual or Extraordinary) in order to conclude valid decisions as specified in Section 21 of the Constitution.

18 EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

18.1 The Board can convene an Extraordinary General Meeting at any time. Notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be given following the same requirements as for an Annual General Meeting.

18.2 The Board must convene an Extraordinary General Meeting if requested to do so by Members who hold at least 10 percent of the total number of votes held by the General Membership.

18.2.1 If the Board fails to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting within ninety days of receiving a valid request from the Membership, the requestors are entitled to convene the General Meeting themselves, following the usual procedures of the Board.



19 BOARD

- 19.1 The Board must include persons from at least two countries.
- 19.2 The Board should consist of persons representing more than one gender.
- 19.3 Board membership is only open to individuals who are Ordinary or Honorary Member, who accept, abide by and comply with the Association's Constitution and decisions, and who do not harm the Association in an unreasonable way. The General Membership has the final decision on whether Board members have acted in accordance with this requirement. (Details in the Bylaws).
- 19.4 The Board should consist of at least five (5) and no more than nine (9) members.
- 19.5 Each Board member is elected for a two year term by the General Assembly at an Annual General Meeting.
- 19.6 The Office Bearers of the Board shall consist of:
- President
 - Vice-President
 - Treasurer
 - General Secretary
- 19.7 The additional Board members are called "General Board Members".
- 19.8 The Office Bearers of the Association; the President, the Vice-President, the Treasurer and the General Secretary, are elected by the new Board from among its own members as soon as possible after each Annual General Meeting (Details in the Bylaws).
- 19.9 The members of the Board are elected on a rolling base (defined in the Bylaws) and are eligible for immediate re-election.
- 19.10 Rights and obligations of the Board
- 19.10.1 The Board is responsible for the management of the Association and to guide it into the direction of the Mission and Goals.
- 19.10.2 Specific responsibilities of the Board are:
- To hold a register of the Members,
 - To maintain a financial structure,
 - To maintain a communication structure,
 - To establish committees with tasks and control their progression.
- 19.10.3 The Board is entitled to decide to enter into agreements to obtain, dispose of or encumber immovables.
- 19.10.4 The Board is not entitled to enter into agreements in which the Association commits itself to guarantee for or to share other parties' debts, in which the Association supports third parties, or in which the Association vouches for the debt of a third party.
- 19.10.5 The Treasurer can represent the Association in all financial matters up to the sum specified in the Bylaws.
- 19.11 Rules of conduct for the Board, including procedures for internal decision-making, are defined by the Bylaws and other internal rules of the Board.
- 19.12 A Board member may resign from the Board at any time by presenting their notice of resignation to the Board. This resignation will become effective on the date on which the resignation is accepted by the Board.
- 19.13 Filling a Vacancy on the Board
- 19.13.1 Where there are fewer Board members than the maximum permitted under Article 20.4, the Board may appoint a qualified individual to the Board on a temporary basis until the next Annual General Meeting.



20 COMMITTEES WITH SPECIAL TASKS.

- 20.1 The General Assembly or the Board can appoint committees as may be considered appropriate, to perform a specific task such as membership administration or drawing up guidelines for competitions.
- 20.2 The Board shall determine the terms of reference, powers, duration and composition of any such committee.
- 20.3 All acts and proceedings of such committees shall be reported back to the Board as soon as possible. Committees shall report on a regular basis to General Meetings or the Board.
- 20.4 Recommendations of committees to the Board or the General Assembly should be treated as advisory in nature.

21 VOTING

- 21.1 Ways of participating, majority and quorum are defined in the Bylaws except for decisions to change the Constitution or to dissolve the Association.
- 21.2 Unless the General Assembly decides otherwise, votes on personal issues such as elections to the Board or regarding the exclusion of Members, will be confidential.
- 21.3 Unless the General Assembly decides otherwise, votes at a General Meeting on non-personal issues will be conducted by non-confidential means such as a show of hands.

22 ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

- 22.1 The Board shall keep such books of accounts as are necessary to exhibit and explain the transactions and financial position of the Association as regards the sums of money received and expended by and on behalf of the Association. Accounts of these transactions shall be made available at each and every Annual General Meeting.
- 22.2 The Association is a not-for-profit organization and all money raised by or on behalf of the Association is only to be used to further the aims of the Association, as specified in Article 10 of this Constitution

23 REPRESENTATION

- 23.1 The General Assembly or the Board may grant persons the right to act as proxy of the Association.

24 BYLAWS

- 24.1 The General Membership or the Board determines the Bylaws of the Association, which may not include regulations that contradict the Law or this Constitution.
- 24.2 The Bylaws regulate all matters that the Constitution requires to be regulated by the Bylaws, and any other matter for which there is a desire for it to be covered by the Bylaws.
- 24.3 Proposed amendments to the Bylaws must be provided to Members at least four weeks in advance of a General Meeting, or to Board members at least one week in advance of a Board Meeting, at which the amendments are to be voted on.
- 24.4 Decisions regarding amendments to the Bylaws are made by a majority (50% plus one vote) of participating votes.
- 24.5 After proposed amendments to the Bylaws have been sent to Members or Board members, the proposed wording to be voted on can only be changed according to the rules set forth in the Bylaws.

25 CHANGING OF THE ARTICLES

- 25.1 A decision to change the Constitution or to dissolve the Association can only be taken by the General Membership in a General Meeting if there is a quorum of 25% of the total numbers of votes held by the General Membership and with a majority of at least two thirds of the votes participating (details about participation in Bylaws).
- 25.2 If the quorum mentioned in paragraph 25.1. is not present, a new General Meeting can be convened to be held within six months after the first General Meeting. For this meeting no quorum is necessary. The decisions must be reached by a majority of two thirds of votes cast at that meeting.
- 25.3 Proposed amendments to the Constitution must be sent to Members four weeks in advance of the General Meeting at which they are to be voted on.
- 25.4 After proposed amendments to the Constitution have been sent to Members, the proposed wording to be voted on can only be changed according to the rules set forth in the Bylaws.



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| 26 | SURPLUS |
| 26.1 | A possible financial surplus of the dissolved Association is spent according to the decisions of the General Membership, taking into account the Mission and Goals of the Association as far as possible. |
| 27 | REFERENDUM |
| 27.1 | The Board may ask for a Referendum of the General Membership if there is a topic that requires an immediate decision and cannot wait for a General Meeting. The rules for holding Referendums will be set out in the Bylaws. |
| 28 | OTHER BUSINESS |
| 28.1 | In all situations that are not covered by the Constitution, the Bylaws or the Law, the Board is entitled to decide. |
| 28.2 | Members are entitled to appeal against the decisions mentioned in paragraph 28.1 at a General Meeting. |
| 29 | THIS CONSTITUTION is in force and becomes valid after its adoption by the General Assembly. Where required by the relevant national law, the Constitution must be presented to the appropriate authority or government office as soon as possible after its adoption. |

Signed by

Davy Brocatus
EEDA President
24th August 2025