

MINUTES of the 5th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ORAN, ALGERIA
AFRICAN CONFEDERATION OF EQUESTRIAN SPORT



Meeting title	AFRICAN CONFEDERATION OF EQUESTRIAN SPORT (ACES) 5th General Assembly
Date	25 th March 2022
Time	18.30 to 20.30 pm
Location	El Mouahidine Hotel, Oran, Algeria
Chair	FAHIMA SEBIANE (ALG) - Vice President
Minute Taker	Gayle Hanssen (ZIM)

Attendees Invited:

Participants	Title	NF	Invited	Member FEI	Attendance	Member of ACES	POA
H.H. Sheikh Khalid Bin Abdulla Al Khalifa	Honorary Member, ACES		X				
Ingmar de Vos	President FEI		X		ONLINE		
Sabrina Ibanez	Secretary General FEI		X		ONLINE		
Francisco Lima	Director, Governance FEI		X				
Jean Philippe Camboulivres	Director, FEI Solidarity		X		ONLINE		
Brigitte Mathias	Group IX Chair		X		ONLINE	YES	
Sami Al Duhami	Group VII Chair		X				
Delegates							
Fahima Sebiane Nazim Sebiane (online)	President ACES Jumping Comm	Algeria - FEA	X	X	IN PERSON	X	X
		Angola - Fequangola	X	X	NO	X	
Ben Maekopo	President	Botswana - HSB	X	X	ONLINE	X	X
		D. R.Congo - FCSE	X	X	NO	X	
N Soulejmane Fofuna		Cote d'Ivoire	X	X	ONLINE	X	X
Mohammed El Sherbini	Vice President EEF	Egypt - EEF	X	X	ONLINE	X	X
Tshegahun Tessema	Vice President EEA	Ethiopia - EEA	X	X	IN PERSON	X	X
Tony Muthama Mary Binks (online)	ACES VP	Kenya - HAK	X	X	IN PERSON	X	X
Mohamed Kankoun Hussam Zermitt (online)	ACES Board	Libya - LAEF	X	X	IN PERSON	X	X
		Madagascar -FSEM	X	X	NO	X	
		Malawi - MEF	X	X	NO	X	X
Bertand de Coriolis	Secretary General	Mauritius - MESF	X	X	ONLINE	X	X
		Morocco - FRMSE	X	X	NO	X	
Gigi Mathias	Group IX Chair	Namibia - NAMEF	X	X	ONLINE	X	X
Ibrahima Wade	President	Senegal - FSSE	X	X	ONLINE	X	X
Chad Cunningham Sharlene Venter Sylvia Bruckner Di Baxter	Secretary General ACES Dressage Comm ACES Jumping Comm	South Africa - SAEF	X	X	IN PERSON	X	X
		Sudan - SEF	X	X	NO	X	
Glenda Warburton	President	Estwini - ENEF	X	X	ONLINE	X	X
Basma Arfaoui Zied Aouina	Secretary General ACES Jumping Comm	Tunisia - FTSE	X	X	IN PERSON	X	X
Theola Barclay	ACES Treasurer	Zambia - ZANEF	X	X	ONLINE	X	X

Zara Nicolle	ACES Jumping Comm						
Ricky Johnstone Gayle Hanssen Sean Bruss	ACES Sec General	Zimbabwe - ZEF	X	X	IN PERSON	X	X

The following were online, but unknown identity:

Baard

iPhone

Zoom User

Admin (identified as Ben Maekopo)

PT	TOPIC	ACTION
1.	<p><u>WELCOME, PRESENT AND APOLOGIES</u></p> <p><u>Summary 72 % attendance:</u> 7 Nations present in the room</p> <p>8 Nations present online. Two of these nations did plan to travel to Algeria, but the recent opening of flight routes due to the two year Covid lockdown made air tickets very difficult to obtain (Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire)</p> <p>6 Nations did not attend the meeting. Of these 6; 4 are not current paid up and active members. (ANG, MAD, MAW, SUD)</p> <p>The Vice President of ACES and President of the Algerian Equestrian Federation (FEA), Mrs Fahima Sebiane, together with the Algerian Ministry of Sport, welcomed all those in Algeria to both the meeting and the CSIO-J and CSIO-Ch which was being run concurrently. She welcomed all the National Federations online and again expressed great pleasure that the FEI President, Mr Igmarr de Vos, and the FEI Secretary General, Ms Sabrina Ibanez could join us virtually for the meeting.</p>	
1.1	Mrs Fahima Sebiane, Vice President of ACES was formally appointed to Chair the meeting, in the absence of the President of ACES, Hesham Hatab.	
1.2	The minutes of the previous ACES General Assembly in Moscow in 2019 were proposed as a true reflection of the meeting by Basma Arfaoui (TUN) and seconded by Chad Cunningham (RSA) – both present in person.	
2.	<p><u>RATIFICATION of COTE D'IVOIRE MEMBERSHIP</u></p> <p>Cote d'Ivoire was formally welcomed as Members of ACES. This was unanimously supported. It is a requirement that ACES members are members are FEI, and CIV only became members of FEI after the previous GA of ACES held in conjunction with the FEI GA in Moscow in 2019. ACES GA held before FEI GA, where CIV membership of the FEI was accepted.</p>	

3.	<p><u>ADDRESS BY IGMAR DE VOS, FEI President and SABRINA IBANEZ, FEI Secretary General</u></p> <p>Mr de Vos welcomed all African NFs from a virtual platform, and looked forward to meeting in person in Cape Town, South Africa in November, where the FEI General Assembly will be held on African soil. (proposed dates 9th to 13th November 2022). He also looked forward to seeing those that were members of Group IX in Kenya in May. He touched on the subjects that have affected the FEI in the last few years, including the Covid pandemic, the EVI outbreak in Europe and the current war in Ukraine. This conflict has resulted in the cessation of all competition in Russia, and Russian athletes being prevented from competing internationally. Some have appealed this, and the outcomes are awaited. He explained that although sports should not be involved in conflict, Russia broke the Olympic ideal by invading within the 7 day window after the Paralympic Games. Currently the FEI is involved in the evacuation of horses from Ukraine and the establishment of 40 quarantine stables close to the Polish border, to allow the EU testing requirements to be met.</p> <p>Ms Ibanez noted that the FEI Sports Forum will be the first in person Forum since 2019 and will be held on the 24th and 25th April in Lausanne. Standards for International events will be discussed, and Rules revision for Eventing, Para Dressage, Dressage and Veterinary will be debated. The FEI will celebrate their 100th Anniversary and have invited Thomas Bach, the IOC President to the event. It was agreed that the promotional video for the Mediterranean Games that will be held in Oran in June 2022 would be shown at the Sports Forum. There will also be discussion of the Paris Olympic Games, and it was noted that all NFs that either qualified or participated were part of a questionnaire that was circulated some months prior to the event.</p>	
4.	<p><u>ACES OVERVIEW – the Last 4 years</u></p> <p>Gayle Hanssen (ACES Secretary General) gave a presentation on the achievements and projects of ACES over the last 4 years. This is attached to the minutes as Appendix 2.</p>	
5.	<p><u>TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORTS</u></p> <p>5.1 <u>Jumping Report</u> – given by the Chair of the Jumping Committee, Nazim Sebiane (NS), and attached to the minutes as Appendix 3. ETH (Tshegahun) clarified the Regional Divisions. Gayle Hanssen (GH) noted the various zones within Africa, where ETH is paired with KEN, West Africa is an entity. North Africa is also a zone and Southern Africa is a zone, and horse movement may be possible. Discussion from Hussam Zermitt (LYB) endorsed the development of Regional Competition. NS reiterated that ACES has committed to organising a Jumping Competition for the 3 categories, Junior, Child and Senior every 2 years, and where possible, within the framework of Continental Games. It was agreed that the Senior Height would not change from the 1.40m maximum used in Morocco for the African Games in 2019.</p>	

<p>5.2</p> <p>5.3</p> <p>5.4</p>	<p>Endurance Basma Arfaoui (TUN) from the Endurance Committee gave a report on the status of Endurance. She noted that Tunisia has competed successfully in Endurance and hopes to lead a strong committee to encourage participation between the North and the South in Endurance. TUN will liaise closely with NAM in this respect.</p> <p>Vaulting A vaulting report was received from Alexandra May and it attached as Appendix 4 to this report.</p> <p>Dressage and Eventing No reports received. Jean Philippe Camboulivres noted that the FEI is introducing an Eventing competition similar to the WJC and WDC and 2022 will be the test event year. It is envisage that Eventing will be developed through this competition in a fair and safe format.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>SOLIDARITY GRANT – Talent Spotting for YEG Competition</u></p> <p>The FEI Solidarity Grant to ACES was severely curtailed due to the Covid pandemic, with only one visit per country. The final preparation will begin in early May for the YEG competition in Aachen, Germany. The following summary was reported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 year programme 2019 to 2022 • Interrupted by COVID and curtailed • Visit all ACES members that applied with a “Talent Spotters” programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ALG, TUN, SEN, ZIM, ZAM, BOT, NAM, ESW, MRI • Should have been followed up prior to YEG Qualification Event, but due to COVID this did not happen • QUALIFICATION FOR YEG – 2021, was difficult due to COVID and travel of the required Judges from WJC. • 1st TRAINING CAMP – MORROCO 5-8th May 2022 • 2nd TRAINING CAMP – GERMANY June 2022 • YOUTH EQUESTRIAN GAMES – June / July 2022 	
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>OLYMPIC GAMES – report back and discussion</u></p> <p>Just 3 African countries were represented at the Olympic Games in Tokyo last year – Egypt, Morocco and South Africa. All ACES members supported an Africa Venue for the Olympic Jumping qualification for the Paris 2024 games.</p>	
<p>8.</p> <p>8.1</p>	<p><u>CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS</u></p> <p><u>African Youth Games, Cairo 2022</u></p> <p>There has been considerable discussion around the African Youth Games 2022, with the venue moved from Lesotho to Ethiopia and finally there is a suggestion of Cairo. Dr El Sherbini reported that this was still under discussions and no</p>	

<p>8.2</p> <p>8.3</p>	<p>formal position can be offered to ACES members, before the venue is finalised by the Egyptian Government. However, Dr El Sherbini noted that should Cairo be confirmed, there would be no problems with having the Equestrian event on borrowed horses. No decision is expected during Ramadan.</p> <p><u>Senior Competition, bids and the way forward</u></p> <p>(see below) The ACES bid for Equestrian to be incorporated at the Africa Games next year was unsuccessful. The meeting agreed that it would be advantageous to have a similar parallel competition and work with the FEI should start on how to bid for this event.</p> <p><u>Other Disciplines</u></p> <p>Strong discipline committees that will be named at the end of this meeting should assist in forging a path for the other disciplines.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p><u>AFRICA GAMES</u></p> <p>In February, 2 Board Members were part of the bid for Equestrian to be incorporated in the Africa Games Accra2023. The bid was not accepted and was hampered by 2 aspects. Firstly, Ghana, where the games will be held is not an FEI member, and therefore the sport would be conducted in another country. Secondly, the bid was done remotely due to the limited finances of ACES that did not allow travel . The meeting felt that the second point should be rectified and this is discussed in Any Other Business. Equestrian needs to work hard to be part of these games where possible, as this is one of its primary reasons.</p>	
<p>10.</p> <p>10.1</p> <p>10.2</p>	<p><u>FINANCE – Subscriptions, Budget, Bank Account</u></p> <p><u>ACCOUNTS PRESENTATION</u></p> <p>The ACES accounts were presented by Theola Barclay (ZAM), ACES Treasurer. The presentation was shown on the ZOOM call for all to follow. For background, ACES is a registered Trust in Mauritius in 2015. Theola lead the meeting through the payments for the last year and all agreed with the accounts and they were adopted.</p> <p><u>INCREASE IN FEES</u></p> <p>Tshegahun Tessema (TT) (ETH) noted that there was clearly a need for more income than the ACES subscription allowed. He suggested that a plan was devised and on the back of this, the Budget could be created. This will allow the fees to be set accordingly. Glenda Warburton (ESW) agreed with the plan that ACES needs to continue forwards.</p> <p>Chad Cunningham (RSA) said that some preliminary discussions had been had and a fee of \$500 for active members was probably not unreasonable, considering many of the Federations were benefitting from ACES initiatives. Discussion surrounded the fact that there were some more active NFs and some less so. It was loosely agreed that there may be a “lower” fee for those not actively involved</p>	

	<p>(perhaps continue on the \$100 per year) and then set a certain number of years “back pay” that was required for the NFs to become an active member. It was felt that the step from being inactive to active should not be financially too onerous.</p> <p>The meeting suggested that they proposed fees for 2023, along with a plan and a budget be presented at the Meeting in Cape Town at the end of the year. The Board agreed this was a good idea.</p>	BOARD
10.3	<p><u>SPONSORSHIP</u></p> <p>Ibrahima Wade (SEN) suggested that there was a general increase in ACES activities, and this would need funding, and perhaps the fee increase could not cover everything. There was the endorsement of a Media and Sponsorship Committee to help in this aspect.</p>	BOARD
10.4	<p><u>SOCIAL MEDIA</u></p> <p>Mohammed Karkoun suggested Social Media Activity. GH noted that ACES has a website, but the Facebook page is not very active. Zied Aouina (TUN) noted that TUN has had a lot of success with engaging a Third party to manage their Social Media and this had attracted a lot of sponsorship interested. He said he would assist ACES in spearheading a similar initiative. It is considered that Social Media has a greater audience than a webpage, but needs constant attention.</p>	Zied / BOARD
11.	<p><u>RULES AND REGULATIONS – VOTE FOR AMMENDMENTS</u></p> <p>The following Rules changes were brought to the meeting and Accepted / Rejected as noted.</p>	
10.1	<p>Page 2 Article 1. NAME</p> <p>The Trustees at the time of the foundation are Loita as Corporate Trustee represented by Mrs. Kim Gueho registered in Mauritius; Mrs K.E. Binks from Kenya; Mrs Fahima Sebiane and Mr Hesham Hatab from Egypt The current ACES President and Vice Presidents as Trustees.</p> <p>ACCEPTED - unanimous</p>	
10.2	<p>Page 4 Article 6. MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>Honorary Chairs or Honorary Board Members of the Executive Board may will be invited to attend and speak at General Assemblies and Board Meetings of the Executive Board but shall have no vote.</p> <p>ACCEPTED - unanimous</p>	
10.3	<p>Page 4 Article 7. FINANCIAL</p> <p><i>The Board shall prepare annual budgets for adoption by the GA. A yearly</i></p>	

membership fee **may** be charged. All FEI Competitions held under ACES regulations will incur an administration fee ~~as per~~ [Article 9.1.7]. *Only fully paid up NF Members of ACES will be entitled to host, enter or to participate in any ACES, AASC/UCSA, ANOCA/ACNOA or FEI competition or project if so designated as administered by ACES in a: Notice, Invitation, Rules, Schedule or Competition. All outstanding subscription fees must be confirmed with an ACES Receipt or proof of Bank Transfer (electronically transmitted or hard copy) at least 48 hours before the Participation Deadline of any ACES competition or project.*

REJECTED – See discussion under finance. There must be an allowance for a fixed period of time back pay, in order to make it not too onerous on those trying to become active members, should the fees increase. The concept is good, but needs re-wording and can be submitted again at the November meeting.

10.4

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Article 10. BOARD

1. ~~A The ACES Board is composed of the 4 [four] Office Bearers: the President, two Vice-Presidents, who must be respectively one each from the Northern Region (FEI Group VII) and the Southern Region (FEI Group IX)), two FEI Groups but from within the African Continent only), one Secretary General, one Treasurer and up to three not more than 5 [five] Board Members. They are responsible for the governance and the representation of the ACES.~~
2. The President and the Vice Presidents and Treasurer must not be from the same NF. NFs are not permitted to have more than one of their members serve on the Board, either as Office Bearers or as Board Members. The membership of the Board must not have more than 60% of members from either the Northern (members of Group VII) or Southern (members of Group IX) Regions.
3. The President is responsible for ensuring that the purposes and principles of the ACES are observed, and for the general supervision of all its activities. The President or his appointed representative, when approved by the Board, may represent the ACES in relation to third parties.
4. The Board is competent for all matters that are not explicitly competences of the GA. If one of the Board Members is unable to attend a meeting, he may with prior notice and agreement of the Board nominate an Alternate to represent him.
5. All candidates for a position on the Board ~~should~~ must have the support of their NF to be nominated. The NFs must be fully paid up members of ACES to nominate a person to any position. ~~No NF may have more than one Board~~

GH

	<p>member, not counting the President or Vice Presidents.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. All memberships of the Board are honorary and carry no remuneration. 7. The term of office of the President is restricted to 4 [four] years, renewable once only. He may not be nominated after his term(s) for any other position on the Board, but may become an Honorary Chair or Honorary Members. and Vice-Presidents and the Treasurer shall be for 4 [four years], renewable once only. The term of office of the other Board members is shall be for 4 [four years], renewable once only. At or before the end of their term(s), a Vice President, the Treasurer or a Board Member is eligible to be nominated as President or in another role as an Office Bearer and serve for 4 [four] years, renewable once only, but may not be nominated as a Board Member. 8. In the case of a vacancy on the Board before the end of the term, the next GA must elect a new board member to serve a 4 [four] year term, renewable once only, from the year of election. 9. After a maximum of 2 [two] full 4 [four] year terms, an Office Bearer or Board Member must take a compulsory break of at least 2 [two] years before he may be nominated for any position again. After such break, he may be nominated to serve either as an Office Bearer or a Board Member. 10. The President shall chair the meeting of a GA, EGA , or the Board. If he is unable to do so, a member of the Board is chosen by the members or Board, normally a Vice President, shall Chair the meeting. 11. In the event of a tie in voting at a Board Meeting, the designated Chair, may exercise a deciding vote [Article 9 – GA or EGA]. <p>ACCEPTED - unanimous</p>	
11.	<p><u>APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE BEARERS</u></p> <p>This was an important VOTING General Assembly, with almost all positions up for election or re-election due to the 2 year hiatus caused by the COVID pandemic. All Board members may serve a maximum of 8 years, which is considered 2 periods of 4 years each. The first elections of ACES were done in 20216, with the second major election being scheduled for 2020. However, as this was the first year of the COVID pandemic, all travel and meetings world wide were banned, including ACES GA. 2021 saw the pandemic continue, with ACES postponing its elective GA twice due to outbreaks of various variants of COVID. Therefore the 2022 GA meant that due to the 2 year delay, some of the elective positions were shortened, and the term of office already served was 6 years, so the second term of office was reduced to 2 years.</p>	

	<p>Due to the fact that there was an even split between the In person attendance and the online attendance, ACES did use voting software – called ELECTION RUNNER – to allow those NFs that were not present to vote. A window of 8 hours was allowed and all votes were cast prior to the commencement of the meeting. All NFs that were present voted in person, at this particularly time in the meeting. The results of this election are given below.</p>	
11.1	President – ENG HESHAM HATAB (EGY)	Term 2 years - unopposed
11.2	Vice President North – MRS FAHIMA SEBIANE (ALG)	Term 2 years - unopposed
11.3	Vice President South – Position Open	
11.4	Treasurer – MRS THEOLA BARCLAY (ZAM)	Term 4 years - unopposed
11.5	Board Members (3) – Vote for 3 out of 5	
	MR HUSSAM ZERMITT (LYB)	Term 2 years 11 Votes (5 online, 6 in the room)
	MRS GIGI MATHIAS (NAM)	Term 4 years 12 Votes (7 online, 5 in the room)
	MR ZIED AOUNIA (TUN)	Term 4 years 10 Votes (3 online, 7 in the room)
11.6	Jumping Committee (6) – Vote for 6 out of 8	
	NAZIM SEBIANE (ALG)	Term 4 years 12 Votes (6 online, 6 in the room)
	AHMED NABIL (EGY)	Term 4 years 10 Votes (4 online, 6 in the room)
	ANNIS SELEMANI (TUN)	Term 4 years 9 Votes (4 online, 5 in the room)
	PAPA SECK (SEN)	Term 4 years 8 Votes (5 online, 3 in the room)
	ZARA NICOLLE (ZAM)	Term 4 years 8 Votes (5 online, 3 in the room)
	DIANE BAXTER (RSA)	Term 4 years 7 Votes (4 online, 3 in the room)
11.7	Dressage Committee (5) – Unopposed	
	MOHAMMED EL SHERBINI (EGY)	Term 4 years
	SHADWA EMBABY (EGY)	Term 4 years
	MADLINE CHAMPION (ZAM)	Term 4 years
	SYLVIA BRUCKNER (RSA)	Term 4 years
	FOAUD HAMOUD (ALG)	Term 4 years
11.8	Endurance Committee (4) – Unopposed	
	BASMA ARFAOUI (TUN)	Term 4 years
	LIENTJIE DE WIT (NAM)	Term 4 years
	MOHAMMED SAMOUI (TUN)	Term 4 years
	SAFI BELKACEM (ALG)	Term 4 years
11.9	Vaulting Committee (1) – Unopposed	
	JANINE TURNER (RSA)	Term 4 years
	No one stood for the Eventing Committee.	

12.	<p><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p><u>HONOURARY MEMBERSHIP</u></p> <p>ACES presented Honorary Board Membership to Mrs Mary Binks, who was a co-founder and Founding Vice President South for ACES in recognition of the work she has done in establishing this organisation. All members present endorsed this honor.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 20.30pm</p>	
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ANNEX 1 – Agenda and Overview of Meeting (Presentation for the Meeting)

ANNEX 2 - ACES – The last 4 years – Gayle Hanssen

ANNEX 3 – Jumping Committee Report

ANNEX 4 – Vaulting Committee Report

ANNEX 5 - ACES Solidarity Report – Talent Identification and Road to YEG

ANNEX 6 - Rules and Regulations Updated

Signed By : Date / Place:

Fahima Sebiane

Vice President - Chair of Meeting