

Pursuant to Article 11 of the Associations Act (the Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia, No. 88/01), the Founding Assembly of the European Association of Veterinary Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation adopted on December 6, 2009, and amended on September 18, 2011 the

**STATUTE  
OF VETERINARY EUROPEAN PHYSICAL THERAPY AND  
REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION — VEPR**

**I  
MAIN PROVISIONS**

**Article 1**

This statute regulates the provisions on the name, headquarters, representation, the objectives and activities for the realization of goals, achievement of transparency of the Veterinary European Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Association — VEPR, membership and membership fees, rights and obligations of members, conditions and manner of election and recall, term duration, responsibilities of members, assets available, how to acquire property, the termination of existence, and the procedure regarding the property in the event of the termination of the existence of the Association.

**Article 2**

1. The name of the Association is Veterinary European Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Association — VEPR, hereinafter also referred to as the “Association”.
2. The abbreviated name of the Association is VEPR.
3. Association Headquarters is at 55 Heinzelova, 10 000 Zagreb, Croatia
4. The website of the Association is <https://www.vepra.eu/>.
5. The Founding Members are:
  - Dr. Zoran Vrbanac, Croatia
  - Dr. Karin Othild Holler, Austria
  - Dr. Barbara Barbedo Assis, Portugal

**Article 3**

Veterinary European Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Association — VEPR is registered at the Zagreb City Office for General Administration. VEPR is a non-profit organization.

**Article 4**

1. The Association has an official seal.
2. The seal of the Association is round in shape, 3 cm in diameter, with inscribed text that reads VEPR.

**Article 5**

The Association is represented by its President. The Assembly may authorize other persons to represent the Association.

## II ***GOALS AND ACTIVITIES OF ASSOCIATION***

### **Article 6**

The Association was founded to promote and disseminate expert veterinary knowledge within the field of veterinary physical therapy and rehabilitation and further its scientific and clinical progress.

### **Article 7**

The activities of the Association are:

- Planning yearly activities
- Informing the general public about the latest activities
- Developing international cooperation
- Publishing books and journals in the field of the Association's activities
- Strengthening cooperation with related organizations
- Organizing expert meetings, conferences and seminars

### **Article 8**

The work of the Association is open to the general public. Transparency is achieved in the manner prescribed by the Statute and:

- Through timely reporting on the work and significant events of the Association to members, preparing reports on special conferences or in another appropriate manner
- Through the media and website

## III ***MEMBERSHIP***

### **Article 9**

1. Any natural person can be a member of the Association:

- As Ordinary Member: A doctor of veterinary medicine or physical therapist with a university degree and an active interest in physical therapy and rehabilitation. Ordinary Members shall be entitled to full access to all information and the right to vote and be voted for the VEPRA Board.
- As Associate Member: An individual from the area of veterinary services (technician, nurse, etc.), a physical therapist whose scope of work includes veterinary physical therapy and rehabilitation, or any other interested person who accepts the aims and purposes of the Association. Associate Members shall be entitled to full access to information, but shall not be entitled to vote.
- As Student Member: A university student who accepts the aims and purposes of the Association shall not be entitled to vote or be voted for the VEPRA Board.
- As Honorary Member: A teacher, scientist, or any other person selected by the Board, with a special contribution to the work of the Association and the field of veterinary rehabilitation.

2. Founding Members shall be granted a lifetime membership and the right to vote, depending on their decision to cease membership.

#### **Article 10**

1. Membership shall be granted by the Governing Board.
2. Membership shall be active after payment and inscription in the Register of Members, which is led by the Secretary of the Association.

#### **Article 11**

1. The Assembly of the Association shall determine the amount of annual membership dues.
2. Founding Members and Board Members are exempt from the payment of membership dues.

#### **Article 12**

Rights and obligations of members are:

- Payment of membership dues
- Engagement in activities
- Access to the “members only” section of the website
- Participation in the management of affairs of the Association
- Maintaining and enhancing the reputation of the Association

The use of the VEPRA logo is allowed to members exclusively, and only to promote the Association. No individual member shall use the logo for any direct or indirect economic or commercial purpose.

#### **Article 13**

1. Membership in the Association shall cease upon:
  - Voluntary statement
  - Non-payment of dues
  - Exclusion
2. Voluntary cessation of membership requires a notice in writing to be received by the Secretary.
3. Membership dues shall be payable in advance, and shall become due each year by March 1st. Non-payment by this date shall result in the first reminder, non-payment by June 1st shall result in the second reminder, non-payment by eight weeks before the Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall result in membership being deleted from the VEPRA Register.
4. The decision on the exclusion from the Association shall be made by the President and/or the Board. The excluded member has the right to file a complaint to the Assembly of the Association within 15 days from the date of the delivery of the decision.
5. Any Member may be excluded, asked to resign, or otherwise disciplined for non-professional or unethical conduct or other actions against the best interest of the Association by a unanimous vote of the Board of the Association, pending confirmation by the Assembly at the next AGM.

6. The Assembly shall resolve the appeal within 30 days from the date of the submission of the appeal. The decision of the Assembly of the Association on the upholding or dismissing of the appeal is final.

#### **Article 14**

1. The Association may join alliances and international organizations.
2. The decision to this effect shall be made by the Assembly.

### **IV**

#### ***BODIES OF ASSOCIATION***

#### **Article 15**

The bodies of the Association are:

- The Assembly
- The Governing Board

#### ***ASSEMBLY***

#### **Article 16**

The Assembly is comprised of all members of the Association.

#### **Article 17**

1. Assembly meetings may be general, elective, or extraordinary.
2. The Assembly shall be held in various parts of Europe, the venues to be selected by the Governing Board, bearing in mind the wishes of the membership.
3. The Assembly shall sit regularly once a year at the AGM.
4. An Elective Assembly session shall be held every four years.
5. Both General and Elective Assemblies shall be convened following a notification issued by the President or the Secretary, no less than eight weeks in advance by e-mail and by posting it on the Association website. The agenda items shall be included in the notification, while subjects can be submitted to the Secretary up to six weeks before the meeting.
6. An Extraordinary Assembly Meeting shall be convened by the President of the Association on their own initiative.
7. The President shall convene an Extraordinary Assembly Meeting when requested by at least 51% of Ordinary Members of the Association.
8. In their request for convening the Assembly, the proponents are required to propose an agenda.

#### **Article 18**

1. The Assembly shall be chaired by President of the Association. In the absence of the President, the Vice President or another appointed Board Member shall chair the Assembly.
2. The sessions shall be recorded, and permanently kept in the archives of the Association.

### **Article 19**

Decisions on the internal functioning of the Association shall be taken with a simple majority of the votes of the members present. If the number of the members present at the beginning of the meeting is less than 50%+1, the Assembly shall wait for 30 minutes and deliberate with a simple majority of the votes of the present members.

In Assembly meetings, any member can represent another one if their will is stated by a signed letter addressed to the President six weeks before the meeting.

In exceptional situations, and at the request of the President, in order to preserve the integrity of Association, the voting may be performed using the secure online system where a simple majority of the votes of the current members shall decide.

### **Article 20**

Duties of the Assembly of the Association:

- Passing and amending the Statute of the Association
- Electing and dismissing the duties of the President, Vice President, and Secretary of the Association
- Reviewing and adopting the report on the work of the Association
- Providing guidelines for the Association
- Deciding on appeals against decisions of the members on the exclusion from the Association
- Deciding on the dissolution of the Association
- Performing other duties specified by law or the Constitution
- Determining the amount of membership dues

## ***GOVERNING BOARD***

### **Article 21**

1. The Governing Board consists of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and three Board Members, including the former President.
2. The work of the Governing Board is on non-profit basis; however, all the expenses advanced on behalf of VEPRAs shall be reimbursed with a written proof.
3. Voting members of the Association shall be eligible for the election as Members of the Governing Board.
4. Available positions on the Governing Board shall be posted three months prior to the AGM on the website of the Association. Every candidate for membership on the Governing Board shall be proposed in writing by at least two Ordinary Members of the Association. Candidates shall make their application to the Secretary of the Association eight weeks prior to the Elective Assembly. All members shall be informed thereof.
5. The candidates who receive the highest number of votes shall be elected.
6. The Governing Board shall have the power to establish and determine the powers and mode of conduct of business, appoint, regulate and dissolve Committees, Scientific Sections, and its Representatives to other bodies.
7. Responsibilities of the Governing Board:

- a. Determining the policy development of the Association
  - b. Preparing a financial plan and final account
  - c. Making decisions and other documents relevant to the work of the Association, not reserved to the competence/powers of the Assembly.
  - d. Informing members according to the Statute
8. In case of vacancies (death, resignation, exclusion), the Governing Board shall be entitled to appoint an Ordinary Member of the Association as a Board Member to fill in a vacancy.
  9. The person so appointed shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.
  10. The quorum for a meeting of the Governing Board shall be four.
  11. Governing Board meetings may be held via a telecommunication link.

## ***PRESIDENT***

### **Article 22**

1. The President of the Association shall be elected by the Assembly of the Association for a term of four years.
2. After a four-year term, the Vice President shall succeed the office of the President.
3. In the next term, the former President shall become a Board Member.

### **Article 23**

The President of the Association shall perform executive functions and other tasks specified in this Statute:

- Representing the Association
- Convening the Assembly of the Association
- Managing the Assembly of the Association
- Managing the Governing Board
- Establishing the work program and draft Statute, which shall be submitted to the Assembly for consideration and acceptance
- Establishing a provisional program of activities and work schedules
- Taking account of the execution of approved work programs and the implementation of decisions of the Assembly of the Association
- Managing the assets of the Association
- Reporting on the work of the Assembly of the Association
- Appointing the Commission and similar bodies as necessary and determining their duties
- Being responsible for informing the general public on the work of the Assembly of the Association
- Supervising material and financial operations of the Association
- Deciding on the exclusion of members from the Association
- Performing other tasks stipulated by the Statute and other general acts of the Association

### **Article 24**

1. The President shall be responsible to the Assembly of the Association for their work.

2. The President shall submit an annual report on their work to the Assembly.

## ***VICE PRESIDENT***

### **Article 25**

1. In case of absence or inability of the President, the Vice President shall take on the role of the President in all matters.
2. The Vice President of the Association shall be elected by the Assembly of the Association for a term of four years.
3. The person nominated for the Vice President shall have served on the Board for at least one year.
4. After a four-year term, the Vice President shall automatically become the next President.

## ***SECRETARY***

### **Article 26**

1. The Secretary of the Association shall be elected and appointed by the Assembly for a term of four years of professional performing of administrative duties in the Association.
2. The Secretary of the Association shall keep a register of members, record the minutes of all meetings, and prepare the transcriptions of minutes.

## ***TREASURER***

### **Article 27**

1. The Treasurer shall be elected for a term of four years, subject to annual re-confirmation at the AGM. The Treasurer may serve multiple terms to ensure the continuity of their duties.
2. The Treasurer shall ensure that the accounts of the Association are kept in order and managed according to directives provided by the AGM and/or the Governing Board.
3. The Treasurer shall receive subscriptions, pay all bills, and present the accounts yearly to the Governing Board.
4. Expenses exceeding EUR 1500 (one thousand five hundred Euro) may not be disbursed unless previously authorized by two members of the Governing Board, one of them being the President.

## **V**

## ***ASSETS AND PROPERTY***

### **Article 28**

The assets of the Association are:

- Funds
- Movable property

- Property
- Other property rights

#### **Article 29**

Acquiring of Association assets:

- Through membership dues
- Through voluntary contributions and gifts
- Through grants from the budget
- Through other sources in accordance with the law

#### **Article 30**

A report on material and financial operations of the President of the Association shall be submitted to the Assembly for consideration and acceptance.

### **VI**

#### ***TERMINATION OF ASSOCIATION***

#### **Article 31**

1. The life span of the Association is unlimited.
2. The Association shall cease to exist as provided by law.
3. In the event of the termination of the existence of the Association, all of the remaining assets shall belong to the founders of the Association.
4. In the event of the termination of the existence upon the decision of the Assembly, the Assembly shall decide on the dissolution of the Association by two-thirds majority vote of the total number of members of the Assembly of the Association.

### **VII**

#### ***TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS***

#### **Article 32**

The Statute of the Assembly of the Association shall be accepted by majority vote of the total number of members of the Assembly of the Association conducted after the debate. The Statute shall be amendable upon the vote of the majority of the Assembly.

#### **Article 33**

The Assembly of the Association shall provide the interpretation of the provisions of the Statute.

The President of the Association shall provide the interpretation of other acts of the Association.

May 31, 2018

