



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FIFE BOARD 04/22

13th August 2022 – Vienna, Austria

Present

Mrs. Annette Sjödin	-	President	Mr. Veikko Saarela	-	Vice-President
Mr. Leo v/d Haterd	-	Treasurer	Mr. Karl Preiss	-	Vice-Treasurer
Mr. Charles Spijker	-	Vice-Secretary	Mr. Eric Reijers	-	General-Secretary

Abbreviations used

- BCA – Breed Council Administrator
- BRC – Breeding & Registration Commission
- BRR – Breeding & Registration Rules
- CNA – Cattery Names Administrator
- DC – Disciplinary Commission
- GA – General Assembly
- GS – General-Secretary
- HWC – Health & Welfare Commission
- JSC – Judges & Standard Commission
- SC – Show Commission
- SCA – Show Calendar Administrator
- VCM – Video Conference Meeting
- WCC – World Cat Congress

1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting started at 09.30 hours.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The Board approved the agenda for this meeting.

3. Approval of previous Minutes

The Minutes 03/22 had been approved and were sent to the Members.

4.1 Matters arising from the COVID-19 pandemic – decisions of the Board

The following exceptions concerning the Show Rules are valid until 31.12.2022:

- All Members or their show organising clubs can hold international shows with only domestic judges officiating, no foreign judges needed.
- For all European FIFe Member countries, the number of certificates needed to obtain the titles IC/IP, GIC/GIP resp. SC/SP is set to 5, 7 resp. 10. These certificates can be obtained in 1 country (for IC/IP) resp. 1 or 2 countries (for GIC/GIP and SC/SP). In each class, at least 1 certificate must be obtained at shows organised after 01.07.2020.
- The number of Best in Show Titles in classes 12 and/or 11 to qualify for the title Junior Winner is reduced from 5 to 3.
- Winners Shows may take place in any month in 2022.
- For all Winner Shows, World Show included, organised in 2022, no qualifications are needed for cats to participate.

4.2 Matters arising from or omitted in previous Minutes

The Treasurer and GS would update the information about FIFe in Luxemburg regarding the Board Members and the Statutes.

5. Financial

5.1 Members' and Patronage Members' Payments

The Treasurer showed a list of outstanding payments. The only concern was the long outstanding invoice of CCU (CN); since February 2022. Additionally, CCU had not contacted FIFe since that time. The Treasurer and the GS would try to get in touch.

5.2 Judges Exams

A total of seven judges' exam applications were received.

5.3 Other Financial Matters

- a. The Treasurer presented a Profit & Loss summary, valid until August 2022. Currently, the decline in the number of shows was about 30%.
- b. The Treasurer made an overview of the cost per commission member and the expected rise in the cost in 2023 due to the acceptance of the proposal that costs should be shared between FIFe and the Member of the elected persons.

6. Members' Matters

6.1 General – Extraordinary situation – Ukraine/Russia

- a. As decided at the last meeting (item 6.1 of the Minutes 03/22) the Board asked the 2022 GA if the restrictions on the Russian Member FRU should be extended until the 31.05.2023 and how. In line with article 4.8 of the Statutes, these questions were incorporated under a new agenda item 21.h. The GA agreed to extend the existing restrictions until 31.05.2023. During a lengthy discussion, some delegates voiced the wish to bring further restrictions. Following the statutory requirements, the president asked for a vote and the GA agreed to have an extra agenda item, which was to prohibit the organisation of FIFe shows in Russia with immediate effect until 31.05.2023 and this proposal was carried as well. After the GA, the GS informed FRU and these restrictions were published on the website.
- b. FRU (RU) sent an email in reply to the above decisions. They stated that there can be no punishment without guilt in a democratic organization, as they believed FIFe to be. They asked for an explanation, which rules were broken by FRU, what their faults were and how they could end the restrictions. The Board discussed these questions and asked the help of the DC. FRU was informed that the decisions were made by the GA and in line with article 4.5 of the Statutes, these decisions of the GA were valid and binding, since an absolute majority was reached. Additionally, in line with article 5.1 of the Statutes. the Board must implement decisions of the GA. Regarding the specific questions asked by FRU, the GA had imposed temporary restrictions regarding imports and acceptance of exhibitors to shows upon all Members, except Felis Russica. The second part of the decision, valid as of 27.05.2022, concerned show restrictions. Felis Russica should not consider these restrictions as a disciplinary measure inflicted upon them, but a response, from the FIFe GA to a global crisis. The FIFe GA decided it could not accept that shows, which can be seen as a celebration of the cat fancy, can take place in the Russian Federation under the name and flag of FIFe as long as shows in Ukraine are no longer possible, due to the war, inflicted upon them by the Russian Federation.
All restrictions were valid until 31.05.2023 and would be reviewed if and when necessary. The Board and the DC trusted that this clarification answered the FRU questions, and they hoped, for all parties involved, that the horrible situation in Ukraine would be over soon.
- c. In reply to the above, FRU answered that they understood that the punishment for FRU was “non-disciplinary” and they should not complain. They understood that restrictions, applied to FRU, were the result of a “global crisis.” They did not understand, why thousands of Russian breeders were chosen by the GA as responsible persons for this “global crisis.” Many of them had been a FIFe members all their lives with profound respect for the Rules. They did not see how this punishment could change the situation in Ukraine. They still did not understand the exact criteria for improvement of the situation and who would decide if the situation was good enough or not yet? They did understand that the FIFe Board did not have another explanation and they would discuss what to do based on this information.
- d. On the 31st of July, the president of FRU, Mrs. Elena Noskova, informed the Board that Felis Russica decided to terminate its membership in FIFe as of 1st August 2022. FRU could not accept punishment of thousands of people without any faults. They were grateful to FIFe for the experience and knowledge they got, but felt there was no

place for them in FIFe at this moment. FRU expressed the hope that someday, when and if the situation would improve, a Russian Member would be accepted by FIFe again.

This decision was published on the website.

However, four days after this confirmation, 2 Russian FIFe judges and presidents of 5 FRU clubs, several board members of FRU contested the legality of the resignation and stated that the FRU board had decided, in majority, to remain a Member of FIFe at a meeting in July. They asked the FIFe Board to reconsider the decision taken by the FRU president until a new FRU board was elected on the 20th of August 2022.

The Board discussed this request and decided it needed more information. The GS would contact Mrs. Noskova and Mrs. Zagorskaya to ask them to elaborate more on the resignation of FRU in the light of the request received.

Following the above, the Board decided to withdraw the confirmation of resignation of FRU both in writing and on the website.

6.2 Correspondence

- a. Members informed the GS of the following changes: details listed on the FIFe website.
 - * ANFI (IT) – new board and president
 - * 1.DEKZV e.V. (DE) – new board
- b. Aristocat (LI) informed the GS that they had been contacted by Mrs. Marie-France Pohl, president of LCC-FFL (LU) and they wished to give their proxy for the 2022 GA to LCC-FFL. With reference to article 4.9 of the Statutes, the GS informed them this was not possible.
- c. FBE (BE) sent feedback received from the European Animal Welfare Council (EuroFAWc) regarding their annual meeting on 31.05 and 01.06.2022, for information. This was feedback of various official animal welfare councils of the past year. Not all information was cat related.
- d. ICA (ID) asked if the novice class for EXO/PER was closed in FIFe. At one of their shows in June, the officiating judges, Mrs. Elena Noskova (RU) and Mr Henry Hornell (PL), refused to judge these breeds in novice class, because they were of the opinion that they were no longer allowed to be judged in this class. The GS answered ICA that these judges were wrong and referred to article 5.2 of the SR and articles 6 and 9 of the BRR.
- e. ANFI (IT) requested permission to register a cat coming from Russia after 01.03.2022 but paid well before this date. The Board understood the predicament that ANFI was in and granted the exception to register this cat.
- f. 1.DEKZV e.V. (DE) asked for confirmation that it was within their remit to decide from which non-FIFe organisations they would accept and import pedigrees or not. The GS referred them to the first bullet of article 4.6.2 of the BRR, where this was stated.
- g. FB (GB) asked for dispensation for an individual member who was also a GCCF judge. This lady now wished to take a judging license with an IDP organisation. The Board did not grant permission and pointed out that the person in question was already listed as a judge in this new organisation.
- h. ZFDS (SI) had a question about the restriction on importing cats from Russia. They wanted to make sure that they understood the rule correctly. One of their members wanted to register a cat with a pedigree issued by a Ukrainian WCF club but the breeder lived in Russia. They attached the pedigree concerned. The Board discussed this matter and could not establish that the breeder lived in Russia, in the information provided by ZFDS. The GS answered ZFDS that if they were certain of their findings, they should follow the rule.
- i. CFCA (LV) sent an IDP pedigree of a BSH, which one of their members wanted to register. They wrote that this cat had a Scottish Fold in the 4th generation, which made them doubt if they could register this cat as BSH. The Board discussed this matter and the GS answered they should not be in doubt; this cat could not be registered as BSH. The wording in article 6.4 of the BRR was clear: *“No progeny of cats suffering from osteochondrodysplasia (re. 3.6.2) regardless of ear-type, maybe be recognised as BLH/BSH.”*

6A. Probational Members' Matters

- a. FFBg (BG) had organised their first 2-day show on the 25+26.06.2022 in Sofia. There were well over 100 cats present and judged and 4 judges officiated. The whole event was excellently organised. Eric Reijers wrote a short and positive report, which was sent to the SC, FAF-FR as the mentor and the Board.
- b. A group from Dubai expressed interest in starting a feline club there. The GS sent them all necessary information and PDF copies of the Statutes and General Rules.

7. Show matters:

7.1 General

- a. ANFI (IT) asked permission to contact the SCA because they needed to cancel a show and could not access the members area of the website because they did not have the password. The GS informed them that they could contact Mrs. Dorte Kaae at will and she would help them with a new password.
- b. ICA (ID) asked for an exception to article 4.2 of the Show Rules until 31.12.2022. In order to obtain the title CH or PR a cat must have been awarded 3 (three) CAC/CAP, during 3 (three) national or international FIFe shows by 2 (two) different judges. The Board discussed this request and decided to grant this exception.
- c. FFM (MX) had a question with reference to article 1.14 of the Show Rules. They asked if the FIFe logo had to be printed on paper even if they issued a digital catalogue. The GS replied that issuing a catalogue electronically, e.g., in PDF, was also referred to as "printing to PDF" and if they issued a digital catalogue, they could of course include the logo digitally as well. He sent them the link to the downloadable FIFe logos on the FIFe website.
- d. The SCA copied the GS in on emails she sent to FPL regarding the fact that FPL (PL) was extremely late in requesting two 2-day, 3-certificate shows, one in 2022 and one in 2023. According to article 1.11 of the SR, such a show had to be listed at least 6 months prior to the date. FPL contacted the GS, apologised and asked for an exception. The Board discussed this matter and considered that already in the beginning of 2022 there was confusion on the part of FPL how to apply for such shows (see item 7.1.f of the Minuted 01/22) so understood that there was a misunderstanding. The exceptions were granted but only this time; the next application for 2024 had to come in in time.

7.2 Ratification of dispensation to the Show Rules regarding the number of cats.

- a. Felix (EE) – shows in Tallinn, 04+05.06.2022, as International with less than 150 cats.
- b. FFS (SK) – shows in Košice, 11+12.06.2022, as International with less than 150 cats.
- c. NRR (NO) – shows in Harstad, 11+12.06.2022, as International with less than 150 cats.
- d. ČSCH (CZ) – shows in Chrudim, 18+19.06.2022, as International with less than 150 cats.
- e. FD (DK) – show in Herning, 02.07.2022, as International with less than 150 cats.
- f. FFH (CH) – shows in Küssnacht, 02+03.07.2022, as International with less than 150 cats
- g. Bubaste (LT) – shows in Kaunas, 09+10.07.2022 as International with less than 150 cats.
- h. Felinolog (BY) - shows in Minsk 16+17.07.2022 as International with less than 150 cats.
- i. Felix (EE) – shows in Tallinn, 13+14.08.2022, as International with less than 150 cats.

7.3 Ratification of permission granted to a FIFe Member to invite a non-FIFe Judge:

- a. ČSCH-SCHK (CZ) to have Mrs Pam DelaBar, CFA All Breed Judge from Finland, officiating at the shows in Jablonec nad Nisou, on the 24+25.09.2022.
- b. NRR (NO) to have Mrs Pam DelaBar, CFA All Breed Judge from Finland, officiating at the shows in Nedre Glomma, on the 22+23.10.2022.

7.4 Ratification of permission not granted to FIFe Members to invite non-FIFe Judges:

Nothing to report

7A World Shows

7A.1. General

Nothing to report

7A.2. The complete World Show List (only the first 10 years are published on the Show List):

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • 2022 - Mechelen - FBE (BE) | • 2029 - tba - SVERAK (SE) |
| • 2023 - Strasbourg - FFF (FR) | • 2030 - tba - SFDH (HR) |
| • 2024 - tba - NRR (NO) | • 2031 - tba - FD (DK) |
| • 2025 - St. Petersburg - FRU (RU) | • 2032 - tba - KKÖ (AT) |
| • 2026 - tba - Mundikat (NL) | • 2033 - tba - Suomen K. (FI) |
| • 2027 - Prague - ČSCH (CZ) | • 2034 - Bucharest - FAF-FR (RO) |
| • 2028 - tba - FPL (PL) | • 2035 - tba - FFH (CH) |

8. Commission Matters

8.1 Statutes, Rules, Standards, EMS List, lists and forms

Nothing to report

8.2 Seminars

FAF-FR (RO) offered to host a judge's seminar on Friday 16.09.2022 in Hotel Pullman in Bucharest in conjunction with a 2-day show. They sent a provisional budget with costs to be paid by FAF-FR and FIFe. The Treasurer said that for these kinds of judges' seminars, FIFe never pays anything, only for the GA seminar and the compulsory student judges' seminar. The GS would contact FAF-FR to explain. The seminar was published on the official show list with the agenda provided by the JSC.

8.3 Judges and Standards Commission

- a. The JSC secretary sent concise minutes from their meeting on 27.05.2022 in Plzen, informing the Board that Mrs. Donatella Mastrangelo was elected chairman. Mr. Steven Jones would continue in the position of JSC Secretary.
- b. The chairman of the JSC sent the Judges Rules, in the three languages, updated to the 2023 issue. Only the German status of change had still to be done.
- c. The JSC secretary sent minutes of the VCM, held on the 23.06.2022.

8.4 Show Commission

The SC secretary thanked the Board for the work they did at the 2022 GA; she stated that it was a constructive GA, which took place in a pleasant, co-operative and positive atmosphere. Then she informed the Board that they had a short meeting to decide on their representatives and this stayed as it was. The chairman would be Mr. João Noronha and the secretary, Mrs. Thea Friskovec-Keller.

8.5 Breeding & Registration Commission

The secretary of the BRC informed the Board that they had decided that Mrs. Sarah Johnson would be chairman and Mrs. Maria Myrland, secretary of the BRC.

8.6 Health & Welfare Commission

FFF (FR) requested direct contact with the HWC to discuss matters they wanted to solve regarding decisions and questions raised by their authorities on the health and welfare of certain breeds. This direct contact was established.

8.7 Disciplinary Commission

The secretary of the DC informed the Board that they had decided that Mrs. Anne Paloluoma would be chairman and Mr. Joeri Vanrusselt, secretary of the DC.

9. Judges' Matters

9.1 General

- a. ASFE (ES) informed the GS that Mrs. Diana Di Natale, International category 1 and 2 judge from Italy, was now their member. The judges' lists were amended.
- b. Mrs. Sarah Johnson, International category 1, 2 and BG 4D judge from the UK, was invited to judge at the GCCF supreme show in October 2022. This would be the 4th time that she would judge at a non-FIFe show in a country with a FIFe Member in 2022, which was in conflict with one of the requirements in article 3.7 of the Judges Rules. She asked the Board for an exception to this stipulation so she could judge at this prestigious GCCF show. The Board discussed this request and considered that this stipulation would be removed from article 3.7 as of the 01.01.2023 as the result of a carried proposal at the 2022 GA agreed with the request and granted an exception.
- c. The GS would contact Mrs. Ietje Röhr, category 2 judge from the Netherlands. She sat the theoretical exam in BG A in Vienna on 20.02.2020, which was now 2.5 years ago. He would remind her that she needed to sit the practical exam until 31.12.2023.

9.2 Permission to sit the FIFe Judges' Exam

- a. Mrs. Brigita Guobe (LT) to sit the exam in category 4, in Riga (LV) on the 10.09.2022 in English with Mr. Vladimir Isakov (BY) and Mr. Gianfranco Mantovani (IT).
- b. Mrs. Hannah Jensen (SE) to sit the exam in category 3, in Västra Frölunda (SE) on the 17.09.2022 in English with Mr. Ad de Bruijn (NL) and Mr. Eric Reijers (CZ).

- c. Mrs. Lucie Pánková (CZ) to sit the exam in category 4, in Jablonec nad Nisou (CZ) on the 24.09.2022 in English with Mrs. Lena Venclíková (CZ) and Mr. Ireneusz Pruchniak (PL).
- d. Mrs. Wioletta Buss (PL) to sit the exam in category 2, in Norrköping (SE) on the 08.10.2022 in English with Mr. Michael Edström and Mr. Zvezdan Memedov (both SE).
- e. Mr. Juan José Martínez Vizcaino (ES) to sit the exam in category 1, in Avila (ES) on the 08.10.2022 in English with Mrs. Anna Wilczek (PL) and Mr. Gerardo Fraga y Guzman (ES).

9.2.1 Theoretical Part

- a. Mrs. Liz Parry (CH) to sit the theoretical exam in category 3 in Mechelen (BE) on the 28.10.2022 in English.
- b. Mrs. Nathalie Smits-Peelen (NL) to sit the theoretical exam in category 2 in Mechelen (BE) on the 28.10.2022 in English.

9.2.2 Practical Part

Mrs. Nathalie Smits-Peelen (NL) to sit the practical exam in category 2 in Middelfart (DK) on the 19.11.2022 in English with Mrs. Britta Busse and Mrs. Helene Reiter (both DE).

9.3 FIFe Judges' Examinations passed:

9.4 Judges Appointments – 1st category

9.5 Judges Appointments – 2nd, 3rd and 4th categories

For the above items there was nothing to report

9.6 Mentor Judge applications

The following judges applied to be mentor judges and sent the required application form:

- Mr. Dietmar Sagurski (DE) – categories 1 and 2
- Mr. Hugo Cavalheiro (BR) – category 2

9.7 Ratification of permission granted to FIFe Judges to officiate at a non-FIFe shows to:

- a. Mrs. Kristiina Rautio (FI) – CCCA show in St-Lin Laurentides (CA), 17.09.2022
- b. Mr. Martti Peltonen (SE) – CCCA show in St-Lin Laurentides (CA), 18.09.2022
- c. Mr. Kai Ruonala (FI) – TICA shows in Uppsala (SE), 29+30.10.2022
- d. Mrs. Sarah Johnson (GB) – GCCF show in Stoneleigh (GB), 22.10.2022.
- e. Mrs. Sarah Johnson (GB) – GCCF show in Horsham (GB), 13.11.2022.
- f. Mrs. Sarah Johnson (GB) – GCCF show in Bracknell (GB), 10.12.2022.

10. Student Judges' matters

10.1 General

- a. LFA-Bubaste (LT) informed the GS that their student judge in categories 1 + 2, Mrs Audra Navikiene, had decided to stop with her studies. Her name was removed from the student judges lists.
- b. ICA (ID) requested the listing of their 3 NE judges as student judges in BG B. The GS informed them to be shocked by this question because these judges had already been listed as BG B student judges since 2017. He appealed to ICA to check the FIFe website at a regular basis and to read the rules which were sent to them every year.

10.2 Request for a preliminary student judges' examination:

ASFE (ES) for their member Mr. David Hernandez in category 1, on 08.10.2022 in Avila (ES), in English, with Mrs. Nieves Alonso León and Mr. Gerardo Fraga y Guzman (both ES).

10.3 Notification of the pass of a preliminary student judge's exam:

Nothing to report

10.4 Notification to include persons as a student judge in an additional category:

- a. SVERAK (SE) to include Mrs. Ksenia Karpinska as a student judge in categories 1 and 2.
- b. ČSCH-SCHK (CZ) to include Mrs. Alena Opatrná as a student judge in category 1

10.5 Theoretical Exam sessions:

Two candidates would site a theoretical exam on Friday 28.10.2022, prior to the World Show in Mechelen (BE). Future exam sessions could be organised prior to board meetings (see item 19), during the GA week and prior to the World Show.

11. Cattery Name Business

FPL (PL) requested permission to change a cattery name, which had only been registered a year ago. This in line with article 5.2.5 of the BRR. The Board agreed and permission was sent.

12. General Assemblies

The Treasurer visited the Yellow Hotel in Monte Gordo (PT) to finalise reservations for the 2023 GA. He was informed by the hotel manager that rooms could only be booked by using the appropriate reservation forms, which would be available at the end of October.

13. The FIFe website and social media

Prior to the workshop session with the website designer in Vienna on Friday the 12th of August 2022, the board contacted all commission members and administrators asking them for their input and ideas for a new website. Feedback was received from the DC, BRC, JSC, SC, SCA and the BCA. The meeting took place, suggestions were consolidated and served as input for the requirement specifications of the new website. The company would send these specifications by the end of August. These would serve as the base for the request of detailed quotes from several companies.

14. World Cat Congress

15. FIFe Breed Councils

For the above items there was nothing to report

16. GDPR – General Data Protection Regulation

FIFe follows the GDPR regulations with regard to the storage of personal data.

17. Membership change

Nothing to report

18. Any Other Business

- a. The Vice Treasurer forwarded a link to a website, called “QUEN” dealing with torture breeding of about 20 animal species, also felines. He would contact them to suggest cooperation.
- b. The JSC sent a letter by email suggesting to the Board and commissions to have a VCM meeting, in order to discuss what needed to be achieved to modernise the FIFe internal structure and working practices to better meet the challenges faced by FIFe in today’s cat fancy. This had been agreed in the Mission Statement, handed out at the last GA. The GS suggested a date that all board members were available.

19. Next Board meetings

- Saturday 26.11.2022 Vienna (AT)
- Saturday 21.01.2023 Vienna (AT)
- Saturday 25.03.2023 Vienna (AT)
- Monday 22.05.2023 Monte Gordo (PT), in connection with the GA
- Saturday 19.08.2023 Vienna (AT)
- Saturday 11.11.2023 Vienna (AT)

20. Close of the Meeting

The meeting closed at 17.00 hours

Annette Sjödin – President

Eric Reijers – General-Secretary