

**STATUTE
OF
THE FEDERATION FOR HUNTING AND
CONSERVATION - MALTA
(FKNK)**

1998

INDEX

	Page
Name	3
Registered Office	3
Emblem of the Federation	3
Interpretation	4
The Federation's Mission Statement	5
Membership	7
Affiliated Members	8
Associated Members	9
Powers and Functions of the Federation	10
The General Council	10
The Council	12
District Committees, Sub-Committees and Affiliated Organisations	15
The Disciplinary Board	16
The Board of Finances	17
Members' Obligations	18
Federation Funds	18
Disbandment of the Federation	19
Annex 1- Emblem	20
Annex 2- Bye Laws	21
Regulations pertaining to Lands Administered by the Federation	22
Annex 3- Codes of Conduct and Practice	24
Annex 4- Statute for District Committees and Sub-Committees	31

REGULATIONS OF THE FEDERATION FOR HUNTING AND CONSERVATION – MALTA (FKNK)

Name

1. The organisation will be known as “Federazzjoni Kaċċaturi Nassaba Konservazzjonisti (in short FKNK) and as “The Federation for Hunting and Conservation – Malta” (in English). The word “Hunting” in the English language incorporates the local bird trapping practice (of live capture of birds) since this constitutes another form of hunting.

The names of district branches, sub-committees and affiliated organisations will be as follows;

District.....of The Federation for Hunting and Conservation – Malta;

and Sub-Committee of The Federation for Hunting and Conservation – Malta;

and Organisation.....Affiliated with The Federation for Hunting and Conservation – Malta.

Registered Office

2. The organisation’s registered office is at: 138E, Immaculate Conception Street, Msida MSD 1831, Malta, or in any other address as may be decided from time to time by the Council. The Postal Address is P.O.Box 26, Sliema, SLM 01, Malta .

Emblem of the Federation

3. The Emblem of the Federation will display a bird trapper with traditional cage carrier and nets, a hunter carrying a shot gun, a hunting dog, the sea, a rubble wall and a tree as portrayed in Annex 1. The emblem is to include the Federation’s name both in Maltese and in English. No one is allowed to use the emblem, name or address of the Federation without prior authorization by the Council.

Interpretation

4. Wherever they may appear in the Statute or Regulations and/or Bye Laws of the organisation, the words or phrases listed below are to be interpreted to mean as below indicated, insofar that they do not assume a different meaning relative to their use in context.

- (a) *Federation* or *Organisation* means The Federation for Hunting and Conservation - Malta.
- (b) *Council* means the Core which regulates and controls the Organisation and which holds powers as indicated in this statute.
- (c) *District Committees of the Federation, Sub-Committees of the Federation* and *Organising Committees Affiliated with the Federation* are representative committees composed of members of the Federation hailing from different and/or specific localities. District Committees and Sub-Committees are to be constituted in accordance with the regulations of this Statute which is subject to the approval and absolute control of the Council.
- (d) *General Council* means the Annual General Meeting and other meetings of an extraordinary nature which are from time to time called for by the Council as stipulated by this Statute. District Committees of the Federation, Sub-Committees of the Federation and Organising Committees Affiliated with the Federation will be represented by five (5) delegates each as nominated by the respective District Committee, Sub Committee and Affiliated Organisation.
- (e) *Territory* means The Republic of Malta, its islands and territorial waters and those falling under Maltese jurisdiction.
- (f) *Statute* means the Statute of The Federation for Hunting and Conservation – Malta.
- (g) *Hobby* means Hunting and Trapping of birds and wild rabbits.
- (h) *Sportsman* means the person who practices hunting and/or trapping of birds and/or wild rabbits, and who holds a licence and meets the qualifications to legally practice this hobby in conformity with the laws of the territory.
- (i) *Member of the Federation* means a member of a District Committee and/or Sub-Committee and/or Affiliated Organisation.
- (j) *Affiliated Member* means an organisation or entity affiliated with the Federation and which has been formally approved as such by the Council in accordance with this Statute.

- (k) *District* means a locality or localities in villages, towns and cities of the territory as approved by the Council.
- (l) *General Assembly* means the Annual General Meeting of the District Committees and Sub-Committees established in accordance with this Statute.
- (m) *Licence* means a licence issued by the competent authorities to a person to keep and/or carry a firearm or nets in order to practice the hobby.
- (n) *Treasurer* means the official entrusted with the running of the Federation's funds.
- (o) *Cashier* means the official entrusted with the running of the funds of a District Committee or Sub- Committee established in accordance with these regulations.

Aims of the Federation

5. The aims of the Federation shall be as follows:

- (a) Be a major binding force, merging the interests of all sportsmen who are duly qualified and licensed to practice this hobby, encouraging the establishment and maintenance of good and sound relationships between sportsmen in the interest of the hobby.
- (b) Consolidate, promote and develop the hobbies on the territory in whichever way the Council deems fit and in conformity with the regulations of the Federation.
- (c) Conserve the natural environment and the whereabouts where the hobbies are practiced, such that natural habitats are embellished and maintained in their best natural state, in the interest of both the sportsmen themselves as well as that of the general public.
- (d) Organise and administer all activities of the Federation as well as controlling and exercising discipline on its members and affiliated members, particularly regarding the practice of the hobby on the territory.
- (e) Create and ensure uniform practice of the hobby whilst seeking further development of the hobby in the application of these regulations, in the interest of its members and affiliated members.
- (f) Safeguard the interests and entitlement of its members and affiliated members to practice and enjoy their hobbies from efforts to deny, decrease and/or abolish these hobbies on the territory.

- (g) Provide regular consultation with and between its members and affiliated members on any subject of common interest and create, maintain and strengthen co-operation between the different committees and affiliated organisations. Moreover, in order that the Federation affiliates itself with other national or international organisations which hold identical or similar aims.
- (h) Acquire under any legal title, whatsoever properties, benefits or goods which assist the Federation in reaching its desired aims.
- (i) Collect membership fees from its members and affiliated members to fund the Federation's enterprises and efforts and to fund the enlistment and make good for the salaries of employees, employed under working and salary conditions approved by the Council. The Federation's permanent administrative staff compliment will maintain any statistics deemed necessary by the Council to analyse the state of the hobby on the territory such that communications and interaction with competent authorities, ministries and corps may be factually substantiated. Such interaction on hobby related matters seeks to safeguard the hobbies, interests and rights of its members and affiliated members to practice their hobbies freely.
- (j) Establish District Committees as approved by the Council and establish other Sub-Committees to discuss specific issues of interest to the organisation's members. Committees related to hunting at sea and hunting of wild rabbit may be established under the auspices of the Federation, whenever and however the Council deems fit.
- (k) Interact with the competent authorities to reach agreements on any issue related to or affecting the hobbies and endeavour to achieve formal and legal recognition.
- (l) Stipulate bye laws or ancillary regulations regarding ethics or any hobby related matters. (Annex 2- Bye Laws and Other Regulations)
- (m) Take on loan funds to support its ends and invest any of its finances as deemed necessary.
- (n) Publish magazines, periodicals or other literature or broadcast by other means, information regarding the Federation and the hobbies.
- (o) Instruct youths, prospective hunters and trappers on the ethics and practice of the hobbies. From time to time, all hobbyists are to receive the same instructions on the proper practice and ethics of the hobbies. (Annex 3 Conduct whilst hunting and trapping "Codes of Conduct and Practice")
- (q) Meet arising issues and take all measures conducive to the ends of this Federation.

Membership

6. Any person will be accepted as a member of this Federation subject to approval of admission by the Council, insofar that the following criteria are met;
 - (a) The person is duly licenced by the competent authority to keep and/or carry a firearm in for sporting purposes and/or is licenced to trap.
 - (b) Licences are regularly paid.
7. All membership applications are to be submitted to the Council or to a District Committee. The applicant is to furnish all information and particulars requested by the Council. The Council has the right to request additional information to meet exigencies which may arise from time to time.
8. The Council has the right to approve or decline any application for membership.
9. Any person admitted as a member is to pay the membership fee to the Council as stipulated from time to time by the Council itself. The newly admitted member is to be issued with a membership certificate. The Council may decide to pass on part of this fee to the applicant's District Committee. Hence the applicant also gains membership to the relative District Committee.
10. Membership fees are due annually by the 31 of March. If a member does not pay his membership fee by this date, he forfeits the right to vote in any Federation meeting. If payment is still overdue after three months from written notification for payment, his membership will be cancelled from the membership registry and all rights and privileges as a Federation member will be forfeited.
11. Any member wishing to resign from the Federation is to submit a written notification to the Secretary of the Council. Upon resignation, the individual loses any pretensions to the Federation's funds. Membership fees and other levies due for the current year of submission of resignation will still be due to the Federation.
12. The Council's secretariat is to maintain a record of all the Federation's members as well as other members' details as requested by the Council.
13. All members have a right to request a copy of The Statute at a cost as set by the Council which may not exceed 11.65 Euros (LM 5).
14. Members from different or specific localities may request to establish a District Committee or Sub-Committee. The written request is to be submitted to the Council. District Committees and Sub-Committees will adhere to the Statute as furnished by the Council. (Annex 4 – Statute for District and Sub- Committees)

15. The Council has the power to accept or decline such request to establish a District or Sub-Committee without the need to justify the decision.

16. Both before and after their establishment, the Council will at all times ensure that District Committees and Sub-Committees comply with the regulations and are composed of members who hold the required qualities as stipulated by these regulations and the law of the territory. All District Committees and Sub-Committees are to notify the Council's Secretariat on the dates and location where the General Assembly for its members will be held. A written notification is to be submitted not less than ten (10) days prior to the event. The notification is also to include the Agenda.

17. There will be only one District Committee per district. However, the Council may, at its complete discretion, deem that having more than one District Committee per district enhances better organisation of the hobby.

Affiliated Members

18. Any entity may apply to affiliate with the Federation and be admitted by the Council, insofar that;

- (a) The application is submitted in writing to the Federation's Secretary.
- (b) There are sportsmen amongst its members.
- (c) Accepts the exclusive jurisdiction of the Federation on matters concerning the hobbies.

19. Any entity applying for membership under this section will submit a copy of its Statute. In general, the submitted statute has to;

- (a) Conform to the provisions of the Federation's Statute including any amendments to it from time to time.
- (b) Respect the Code of Conduct whilst hunting and trapping (Annex 3 – Conduct whilst hunting and trapping- "Codes of Conduct and Practice")
- (c) Respect the Federation's aims.
- (d) Submit at least once yearly its audited accounts. Auditing has to be conducted by a qualified public auditor.

20. All affiliated entities' General Meetings are to be notified to the Federation. The Federation has the right to send representatives as observers to these meetings.

21. Upon admission as an affiliated member, the entity is to pay its membership fee (as stipulated by the Council from time to time) to the Federation. The entity is entitled to a membership certificate.

22. The Council has the right to accept or decline any application for membership.

Associated Members

23. The following may apply and be accepted as Associated Members if they submit to the Council an application in writing. Associated Members may be;

(a) Any person or commercial entity holding a licence issued by the competent authorities to import in the territory or conduct sale in the territory of items for the hobbies.

(b) Any person or commercial entity who/which regularly and lawfully publishes literature or reviews related to the hobbies.

(c) Supporters of the hobbies who do not qualify as regular members.

(d) Any Non-Government Organisation/Entity holding nature conservation principles.

(e) Any weapon/s collector if the weapon/s is/are duly licenced irrespective of whether the weapon/s is/are used for hunting or not, if the collector does not qualify as a regular member.

24. The membership fees due will be established from time to time by the Council.

25. The Council may if it so deems fit, honour any person as an Honorary Member for life.

Powers and Functions of the Federation

26. The following bodies exercise the powers and functions of the Federation:

The General Council

The Council

The District Committees, Sub-Committees and Affiliated Organisations

Disciplinary Board

Board of Finances

The General Council

27. The General Council will hold its annual meeting not later than the 31st of March, at a place and time determined by the Council in order to;

- (a) Read and approve the Minutes of the last General Council.
- (b) Approve the Secretariat's Administrative Report.
- (c) Approve the audited Finance Report and appoint auditor or auditors.
- (d) Hold the Federation's President's speech.
- (e) Discuss pre-notified matters which require the approval of the General Council.
- (f) Discuss any other matter regularly raised during the meeting.

Every third (3rd) year:

- (g) Three members are appointed Electoral Commissioners.
- (h) These Commissioners will accept the resignation of the Council and conduct the election of a new Council. Their decision will be final.
- (i) A Disciplinary Board is approved in accordance with the regulations of this Statute.

28. The Council will determine twenty one (21) days in advance, the place and time where the General Council's annual meeting or any Extraordinary General Council meeting will be held. The meeting is scheduled either upon a notified request by the Council or a written request submitted by at least two thirds of the District Committees', Sub-Committees' and Affiliated Organisations' members.

29. District Committee, Sub- Committee and Affiliated Organisation members are to convey and indicate matters to be included in the General Council's meeting agenda not less than seven (7) days prior to the date of the meeting. The General Council's meeting agenda is to be issued by the Council's Secretary not less than three (3) days in advance of the meeting date.

30. Nominations for candidature to the Council are to:

(a) Be submitted by members of the Federation. Nominations are to display the contender's signature as well as the signatures of the two members who in their turn are proposing and seconding his candidature respectively.

(b) Be submitted by any Affiliated Organisation. Nominations are to display the candidate's signature as well as the signatures of the two members proposing and seconding his candidature respectively. Nominations are to be submitted only by members of the concerned Affiliated Organisation.

(c) The Council's Secretariat is to be in receipt of all nominations by fifteen (15) days prior to the election.

31. All delegates entitled to attend meetings of a general nature are entitled to cast one vote each.

32. The Federation's President or his representative in his absence, has the right to a casting vote in case of parity of votes.

33. Unless otherwise provided for, a General Council's decision is reached by the majority of the attending delegates. Any decision to revoke, change or amend or include in these regulations can only be taken by a General Council held for this specific reason and a decision has to be reached by a majority of two- thirds of the attending delegates.

34. A General Council's or Extraordinary General Council's *quorum* is half the delegates plus one delegate. In the event that fifteen (15) minutes elapse from the meeting's established timings, and a *quorum* has not yet been reached, the meeting will be held by the delegates present.

35. Members of the Council are to attend the General Council and have a right to vote as well as the right to nominate candidates for the Council and their number as well as their cast votes are to be taken into account for the purposes of establishing a *quorum*.

The Council

36. The Council administering the Federation is to be composed of eleven (11) persons, elected by a General Council every three (3) years. One of the Council's members is to be elected by simple majority from the Affiliated Organisations in the event that there is more than one contender from these organisations. He/She will be subject to the Federation's jurisdiction and discipline as if he/she were a member of the Federation. The other ten Council members will be Federation members. Should there be no contenders from the Affiliated Organisations; the vacancy will be taken by another member of the Federation.

37. Officials and members of the Council cannot be candidates of any political party of the territory.

38. Council members will retain their post until new elections as earlier indicated unless all the Council's members lose their post by a resolution passed by an Extraordinary General Council called for this specific reason. At the meeting, the Council members will be given the opportunity to defend their positions.

39. If a seat on any Committee is vacated, the post will be taken by the runner-up in the last elections. In the absence of a runner-up, a member of the Federation is co-opted. A member of the Federation may be co-opted to sit on any Committee if such Committee feels the necessity and even if a post has not been vacated. Co-opted members may not cast a vote in the Committee until a year has passed from the date of their co-option.

40. A member of the Council vacates his/her post if for whatsoever reason he/she resigns from the Federation.

41. The Federation's Officials are; the President, the Honorary Secretary, the Treasurer and the Public relations Officer (PRO).

42. Officials and Council members will be elected by a General Council every third (3rd) year as follows.

43. Officials are selected by the newly elected Council on its first (1st) meeting after the General Council's election.

44. The Council may appoint a vice-treasurer and vice-secretary. Appointees are to be members of the Council. The Council may from time to time employ a permanent secretary and other staff members. The Council may offer salaried work contracts to its employees. The Permanent Secretary will be the official responsible for the general administrative work of the Federation, and he or his delegate is to be present at all meetings unless specifically excused or excluded by the Council. In case a Permanent Secretary has not been employed, his tasks fall onto an Honorary Secretary or Vice-Secretary. The Council has the right to choose a Lawyer for the Federation as well as the right of choice of an Administrative Consultant for legal and administrative consultation

and services respectively. The Council may appoint working groups and commissions as it may deem fit from time to time. Working groups and commissions are to be chaired by a member of the Council and they are to keep the Council updated on developments and are subject to the directives of the Council. The Council may deem fit to disband any working group or commission.

45. The Federation's President and Secretary are the Federation's representatives on legal issues. In their absence this role is assumed by the Vice-President or any official nominated by the Council. They may sign or enact any act or document, or other writings which have a legal binding on the Federation or to enact all requisites and necessities for the fulfilment of the territory's laws.

46. A member of the Council is to fulfil his obligations and duties, otherwise the Council has the right to demand his/her resignation. Such demand has to be enacted at a Council meeting where this member has a right to defend his position.

47. The Council has the power to pass or amend bye laws as long as they are not inconsistent with these regulations, in order to regulate its procedure or the procedure at General Councils, or to provide for any other matters for which there are no provisions in this Statute.

48. Official Delegations are to be composed of not less than two Council members who are appointed by the Council itself. Whenever possible, these delegates are to discuss their duties with the Council *a priori*, and subsequently submit a report to the Council on the outcome of their assignment. Unless specifically authorised by the Council, these delegates do not have the right to decide in the Federation's stead.

49. Elected Council members are expected to attend all Council meetings unless their absence is pre-notified to the Secretary. Unless a valid justification is forthcoming, a member who absents himself for three (3) consecutive meetings will have his seat as Council member terminated.

50. The Council is to hold meetings every two weeks or if required, more frequently to discuss agendas. Upon written notification submitted to the Honorary Secretary by not less than five (5) members of the Council, a meeting is to be held within seven (7) days from its receipt. The Council will also meet when a meeting is called by the Council's President.

51. Council *quorum* is five (5) members.

52. The Council will reach decisions according to the votes of present members. The President or person presiding the meeting will have a casting vote in case of parity. Voting will be anonymous if so requested by any member of the Council.

53. Should any member consider a conflict of interest with matters being discussed or voted on at the meeting, he is to make known his conflict of interest and retire from the meeting for the duration of the discussion and/or voting on the matter.
54. In case the President and/or Vice-President are absent from a Council meeting for whatsoever reason, the present members may select a member from their number to chair and preside the meeting. The same applies in the case of absence of the Honorary Secretary or Vice-Secretary.
55. No Council decision may not be quashed on the premise that a member or members have resigned or been removed from the Council and their posts remain vacant insofar that there is Council *quorum*.
56. The President has the obligation to preside over Council meetings, general meetings and extraordinary meetings. The President is to clearly explain the agenda which will be discussed and redress the queries of the present members.
57. The Vice-President assumes these obligations in the absence of the President.
58. The Secretary has the obligation to keep minutes of the Council's meetings, general meetings and extraordinary meetings on the Minutes Book. The Secretary is the communication means of the Federation and he is to keep copies of all correspondences, and bring these to the notice and discretion of the Council during its meetings. He has the obligation to keep a copy of the Statute including all the latest amendments. The Federation's correspondence is to be signed by the Secretary. The Secretary is duty bound to present an Annual Administrative Report at the General Council meeting.
59. The Assistant Secretary has the obligation to assist the Secretary in the fulfilment of his/her duties and to assume his/her obligations in his/her absence.
60. The Treasurer is tasked to collect membership fees as well as any fines incurred by any member/s. The Treasurer is to keep the Federation's Bank Account and he is also to maintain the Federation's accounts. These accounts are to be audited by a qualified public auditor, as appointed by the Annual General Council.
61. The Assistant Treasurer has the obligation of assisting the Treasurer in the fulfilment of his/her duties and to assume his/her duties in his/her absence.
62. The Public Relations Officer is to co-ordinate all media and public relations matters for the Federation.

District Committees, Sub-Committees and Affiliated Organisations

63. District Committees, Sub-Committees and Affiliated Organisations are to abide by the earlier provisions of this Statute (Membership) and conform to the policies of the Federation and abide with this Statute's general regulations.

64. District Committees, Sub-Committees and Affiliated Organisations are obliged to recruit all members who wish to become Federation members through them and to stimulate an increase in knowledge of the hobbies, convey the decisions of the Council to the members and assure the latter's compliance with the regulations of this Statute. The General Assembly for District Committees and Sub-Committees is to be held annually by no later than the 1st of March.

65. All District Committees, Sub-Committees and Affiliated Organisations are subordinate to the Council and they are to abide by and enact the Council's directives. The Council has the right to inspect, at any time, the accounts of District Committees, Sub-Committees and Affiliated Organisations, issue directives on the upkeep of these accounts and request any information as required.

66. District Committees, Sub-Committees and Affiliated Organisations are to submit written notification to the Council's Secretary on the following:

(a) The date, timings and venue of the District Committees', Sub-Committees' and Affiliated Organisations' General Assembly, including a copy of the agenda. The Council will send a representative as an observer at the General Assembly.

(b) Any changes to the posts of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Cashier of the District Committee, Sub-Committee and Affiliated Organisation.

(c) A copy by the secretary of the District Committees', Sub-Committees' and Affiliated Organisations' Annual Administrative Report which conveys the activities of the previous year.

(d) A statement of the District Committee's and Sub-Committee's finances signed by the Committee's President and Cashier. In the case of an Affiliated Organisation, its audited accounts are to be submitted.

(e) The five (5) nominees of each District Committee, Sub-Committee and Affiliated Organisation who have been appointed as delegates to the General Council of the Federation.

67. The minimum number of affiliated members per District Committee is thirty (30) members. Should membership fall below this threshold, the Council may request the disbandment of this committee.

68. No District Committee or Sub-Committee may be disbanded without the Council's authorisation. A District Committee or Sub-Committee is automatically disbanded if its members resign from the Federation.

69. The Council may establish sub-committees with members responsible for specific areas assigned to the Federation by competent authorities for the practice of the hobbies by its members thereat. These Sub-Committees' activities will be directly answerable to the Council and they will be required to furnish any information as requested by the Council. The provisions stipulated in Paragraph 66 will also apply to these Sub-Committees. The Council has the power to change its appointees on these sub-committees at any time. All the paragraphs in this section of this Statute whenever applicable, will also apply to these sub-committees.

The Disciplinary Board

70. The Disciplinary Board composed of three (3) members is to be approved by the General Council every third (3rd) year.

(a) The Board's Chairperson should be an independent person, knowledgeable in the laws of the territory, particularly in the laws regulating the hobbies on the territory.

(b) The other two (2) members of this Board should eventually be selected by the Board's Chairperson.

71. When requested by the Council, this board may sit and resolve the following cases;

(a) Upon referral by the Council, the Board investigates any case of breaches to any law of the territory during the conduct of the hobbies, such that after hearing all submitted evidence, the Board arrives at a decision.

(b) To investigate any other disciplinary case when thus requested by the Council.

72. In the fulfilment of its duties, this Board may not request any investigated person to submit a statement, if by virtue of this submitted statement the person incriminates himself/herself, in such a way that on the basis of this statement, this person is liable to criminal prosecution on the territory. The board is to maintain written record of any evidence submitted and is also to record a written decision. The Board's decision may not be appealed and it is to be communicated to the parties by the Board's secretariat.

The Board's secretariat may be the Permanent Secretary, the Honorary Secretary or Vice-Secretary, insofar that they are not exempted from this function by virtue of a direct or indirect conflict of interest in a case under the Board's scrutiny. In the absence of a member of the Secretariat aforementioned, the Board has the discretion to appoint a member of the board itself to fulfil the functions of secretary. The Board has the power to regulate its procedure.

73. The contemplated penalties which may be served by this Board are as follows:

If the case is sufficiently proven, the member may be fined, or fined and suspended or fined and have the membership terminated, or suspended, or have the membership terminated.

74. If a served fine is not paid by fifteen (15) days upon receipt of the notification, the person's membership will be automatically suspended until payment of the fine is settled. Then, a second notification in writing and conveyed by registered mail is to be delivered to the party. If the fine is not paid within a month of its receipt, membership of the party will be terminated.

The Board of Finances

75. This Board is to be chaired by the Federation's Treasurer, with the President and the Council's Secretary as members.

76. This Board's responsibilities extend to;

- (a) Scrutiny of the Federation's finance books, ensuring their proper upkeep and administration.
- (b) Submission of the Federation's Finance books for auditing at least once yearly and the Board will accede to the requested information as requested by the Council and/or auditor regarding the Federation's financial position and its financial books.
- (c) Submission of a Financial Report to the delegates at the Annual General Council.
- (d) Collection and co-ordination of the collection of membership fees.
- (e) Collection of any finances from competent authorities due to the Federation by virtue of any agreements with the Government of the Republic of Malta.
- (f) Advising the Council on the most cost effective expenditure of the Federation's finances, in the best interest of the Federation itself.

- (g) Co-ordination of any Sub-Committee's finances, when this Sub-Committee is responsible for the upkeep and direction of any area allocated by the competent authorities to the Federation for the purpose of conducting the hobbies thereat.
 - (h) Requisition of any information whatsoever regarding the financial status of any District Committee, Sub-Committee or Affiliated Member, as well as requisition of any documents of any form, or finance books pertaining to the same for the Board's scrutiny.
 - (i) Notifying the Council of any irregularities noted in the finance books of any District Committee, Sub-Committee or Affiliated Member.
 - (j) Prepare a Financial Report to the Council at least once monthly.
77. The Federation's Vice-President and Public Relations Officer are *ex officio* members of this board, but they may not partake in its voting procedure.

Members' Obligations

78. (a) All members of the Federation agree to accept and adhere to all the Federation's regulations, the law governing the hobbies on the territory, lest their membership is revoked.
- (b) Every member is committed to furnish any information as requested by the Federation, regarding matters relating to the aims of the Federation.
79. Should any member of the Federation or any District Committee or any Sub-Committee or any Affiliated Organisation, be detected in breach of any part or parts of the Federation's regulations, or refuse compliance with a Federation's decision or policy if enacted in conformity with the Federation's regulations, or behave in such a manner which the Council perceives as detrimental to the interests of the Federation, the member or District Committee or Sub-Committee or Affiliated Organisation may have his/its membership terminated or suspended or face other disciplinary measures as the Council may decide.

Federation Funds

80. The Federation's funds may be employed for no purpose other than to reach the Federation's intents.

81. If the Federation's funds are insufficient to meet desired ends, the Council may, following authorisation by the Board of Finance, increase its proceeds by raising membership fees or by requesting other levies from the members.

82. The Federation's funds are to be deposited in a bank/s of the Council's choice and in the name of the Federation.

83. The Council is to demand the regular upkeep of accounts books. These accounts are to clearly display the financial status of the Federation. To this end, the Council may request any information to the Board of Finance or the Federation's auditor.

84. At least once yearly, the Federation's accounts are to be audited by a qualified public auditor appointed by the Annual General Council to assert the truthfulness of the balance sheet.

85. The Treasurer is to prepare the financial statement for the Annual General Council's approval, upon attaining unanimous approval by the Board of Finance.

86. All cheques and bank documents are to be signed by not less than two of the following authorised signatories: the President, the Secretary or the Treasurer of the Federation.

87. The Finance Books and the membership registry may be inspected at any time by any member of the Federation insofar that the Council perceives his/her reasonable interest in the Federation's funds. This inspection is to be pre-notified to the Treasurer in reasonable time and the member is to be accompanied by a qualified public auditor whose dues are the member's responsibility.

Disbandment of the Federation

88. Any decision to disband the Federation may only be taken by an Extraordinary Council. The meeting has to be called specifically for this end and such a decision may only come into effect if supported by not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates of the District Committees, Sub-Committees and Affiliated Organisations.

89. All members agree to contribute pro-rata to regularise any dues in case of the Federation's disbandment.

Annex 1



Annex 2

Bye Laws

Issued on the 26th of February 1997 and emended in 1998

No member of the Federation may serve as a member/official in more than any one District Committee or Sub-Committee or Affiliated Organisation. The Council's approval is required for a member/official already serving in a District Committee or Sub-Committee or Affiliated Organisation to serve on a further Sub-Committee or a further Affiliated Organisation.

Regulations pertaining to Lands Administered by the Federation for Hunting and Conservation - Malta

Safeguarding the Environment

Lands are granted to the Federation for Hunting and Conservation – Malta, on the premise that primarily, the natural environment of these lands is safeguarded. All members holding a pass to these lands are to contribute to this effect during hunting as well as during clean ups, tree- pruning etc... and abide with the instructions issued from time to time by the locality's Organising Committee. The Council will hold liable any member for any damages on these lands.

Vehicles

No vehicles are authorised in the forested areas.

Documents

Members are to carry the following documents upon accessing these lands for hunting and trapping purposes:

- (a) The pass granting access and practice on the locality.
- (b) The Federation's membership certificate.
- (c) Individual identity card and the hunting/trapping licence, as per legal requirements.

The Locality's Organising Sub-Committee

Only the locality's Sub-Committee and the Council may initiate any action or intervention when necessary. Follow on disciplinary measures may be taken at a later stage even by resorting to the Disciplinary Board.

During the Practice of Hunting

No one is to shoot cans, stones etc.
Everyone is to observe the law and stipulated timings, hunting seasons and picnic area boundaries.

Allotments

Each member will be allocated an allotment. The allotment may not be transferred to another member even if the such member holds a pass. Any transfer requires the authorisation of the Sub-Committee. All are to familiarise with neighbouring allotments to ensure all hobbyists hold a pass to hunt/trap thereat. Any breaches to this effect are to be reported.

Trapping sites

No one is authorised to have more than two trapping sites on these lands.
Trappers may not carry a firearm during trapping.
Distance between trapping sites is to be reasonable.

Other matters

In addition to these regulations, the Federation's Codes, Bye Laws and the Statute are also to be observed.
Members may only practice the hobbies on any one land administered by the Federation.
Hunters and trappers should respect each other and the general public.
The Council may reckon the necessity to amend these regulations from time to time.

Annex 3

Conduct Whilst Hunting or Trapping (Code of Conduct and Code of Practice)

Hunting and trapping are considered pastimes and sporting activities. During these activities, all legal regulations as well as by the regulations as established by the Federation for Hunting and Conservation – Malta (FKNK - Malta), are to be observed at all times.

The Federation is thereby presenting the following regulations governing conduct whilst hunting and trapping. The following Codes of Conduct and Practice are based on recommendation Number R85 (17) by the European Council of Ministers regarding training to hunters as adopted by the Ministers on 23rd September 1985. Adaptations have been made to cater for local considerations and circumstances.

It is the duty of hunters and trappers to protect and safeguard the natural heritage for present and future generations. Sportsmen should primarily focus on the conservation of the natural environment, with particular emphasis but not exclusively on the conservation of birds and wild rabbits and their habitats. Sportsmen are to be conscious of other people in the countryside and seaside as well as respect private properties of other parties, since only through proper code of conduct will the sportsmen enjoy the respect of the general public.

The aims of these regulations are to compliment present laws irrespective of their suitability, as well as to enhance ecological balance.

Today, hunting and trapping are regarding more as hobbies than a necessary means of sustenance. Hunters and trappers should adopt and reinforce the perspective that they are the managers and keepers of wildlife and the natural habitat in an effort to ensure a healthy ecological balance.

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Legal restrictions and limitations on hunting and trapping seek the preservation of species and their habitats and as such hunters and trappers are to respect such laws.
 - (a) Hunt and trap only those species authorized by law. It is poor sportsmanship to bag protected species.
 - (b) Avarice denotes poor sportsmanship. A premise that a bigger bag denotes a better hunter or trapper is a fallacy.
 - (c) Do not hunt or trap during closed seasons or in those areas where hunting and trapping are not permitted.
2. Respect for your quarry.
 - (a) Sportsmanship is paramount during hunting and trapping.
 - (b) Refrain from practicing unsporting techniques aimed only at increasing your bag.
 - (c) Wild rabbit hunting seasons are to be observed. When circumstances denote a decrease in local numbers, hunters practicing in those areas ought to self regulate as necessary, as well as report immediately any noted diseases.
 - (d) Proper identification of the quarry is adamant before a shot is taken or the nets clapped.
 - (e) Always shoot within range.
 - (f) Always use the appropriate shot pellet size for the intended quarry.
 - (g) Injured game ought to be disposed of immediately to prevent unnecessary suffering.
 - (h) Use your quarry judiciously and do not kill in vain.
 - (i) Hunting and trapping are hobbies and as such their practice should never be the means to economic benefits.

3. Endeavour to practice your hobby competently and responsibly.
 - (a) All hunters and trappers are to make unreserved efforts to learn about their quarries and their relative habitats.
 - (b) It is the responsibility of each and every hunter and trapper to have a sound knowledge of laws and regulations of the hobby.
 - (c) Sportsmen should participate in activities and measures aimed towards safeguarding the natural environment.
 - (d) Maintain regular contact with the Federation and the competent authorities.
 - (e) Whenever necessary explain to environmental officers and farmers the importance of conserving game species and their natural habitats and of hunting.
 - (f) Participate in scientific studies concerning game hunting and trapping as well as the rural environment.
 - (g) You and your actions should set an example for beginners.
4. Awareness of the environment and respect of others.
 - (a) Always bear in mind that local game is migratory and this creates peculiar issues.
 - (b) Safeguard our national hunting traditions, particularly in view of foreign perceptions related to the hunting and conservation of migratory species.
 - (c) Assist and participate in studies on migratory bird species. Make truthful entries in your *carnet de chasse*. Ringed birds ought to be reported to assist scientific observations and studies.
5. You are responsible for your actions. Meticulously observe the law.
 - (a) When you're not hunting;
 - i. Always ensure that your shotgun does not pose a risk to yourself and others. The shotgun should only be loaded at the hunting site. At home your shotgun and cartridges ought to be stored safely and separately and always out of reach of others particularly children.
 - ii. During transit, your shotgun should always be unloaded and kept within its pouch.

iii. Upkeep and conduct regular maintenance and cleaning of your weapon.

(b) When you're hunting;

i. Always follow the manufacturer's recommended cartridge charges for your shotgun.

ii. Be cautious of any obstruction of the shotgun barrel.

iii. A loaded shotgun should always be pointed downwards.

iv. Do not carry your shotgun in a horizontal position.

v. Unload your shotgun before tackling obstacles.

vi. When transiting from a hunting site to another, it is recommended to unload the shotgun unless stalking.

vii. Always note the whereabouts of other hunters and other people in your vicinity and ensure that they know yours.

viii. Never discharge your weapon in the direction of a tree or a person notwithstanding the distance is perceived as being out of range.

ix. Be aware that shotgun pellets have a tendency to rebound upon impact with certain surfaces such as rocks and the water surface.

6. Be courteous and respectful to others.

(a) Respect farmers and do not wander in their tilled fields.

(b) Respect private and/or reserved property and do not trespass. Do not damage traffic signs, electricity and telephone cables. Do not damage rubble walls.

(c) Be helpful to others should your assistance be required.

(d) Spent cartridges should be collected and disposed of properly.

(e) Should you cause incidental damages, ensure that you attempt to remedy and/or pay for the damages, caused at the earliest.

(f) Whenever possible, assist in the prevention of damages to crops by wild rabbits.

7. Be a good manager.

(i) Bags should be proportionate and uphold sustainability.

- (a) Contribute towards the maintenance of a healthy natural environment and of biodiversity.
- (b) Observe any game species' increase or decline.
- (c) Birds of Prey are protected by law.
- (d) Any diseased game should be reported immediately.
- (e) Do your utmost to support game release programmes.
- (f) Support the Federation's negotiations with the competent authorities on behalf of all sportsmen.
- (g) Endeavour to curtail all illegal hunting.

(ii) Protect and assist in the management of hunting lands.

- (a) Support the upkeep of bio-diversity. This is the foundation of a healthy natural environment and the protection and regeneration of natural habitats is a safeguard for hunting in the future.
- (b) Water is a precious resource in Malta and natural sources and reservoirs are to be safeguarded meticulously.
- (c) Hunting lands should cater for the needs of game species all year round.
- (d) Do not disturb breeding birds or their nests.
- (e) Co-operate with the local farmers.

Code of Practice

1. Caution any unsporting acts or any acts which do not comply with these Codes.
2. Always carry your licence whenever hunting or trapping.
3. Do not trap on someone else's trapping site.
4. Do not poach someone else's downed game.

Hunting on land

5. Always be wary of taking low aimed shots.
6. No unnecessary shots should be taken.
7. Keep your hunting dog under control particularly when in the vicinity of farmed land or when in the vicinity of a trapping site. Take good care of your dog.

Wild Rabbit Hunting

8. Take good care of your dog and ferret.

Hunting at Sea

9. Always have safety equipment on board your vessel.
10. Always be accompanied when hunting at sea. Nonetheless, it is not considered prudent to have more than two shooters on any one vessel.
11. Always stay out of shooting range of other vessels at sea.
12. Bear in mind that unnecessary shifts in your position creates unwarranted disturbance and is annoying to others hunting in your vicinity and that it tends to ward off inbound wildfowl.
13. Wildfowl should not be intercepted if approaching another hunting vessel.
14. Other than to take shots, shotguns should have the safety catch on safe at all times.
15. Always shoot from a sitting or kneeling position. Never take shots from a standing position.

16. Be respectful of fellow hunters on the shores as well as fishermen.

Trapping

17. Trappers should take good care of their birds and cater for all their necessities.

18. Trappers should keep their bird cages within the confines of their trapping site to avoid interference to other trappers.

19. Nets should not be kept tight and a decent lax in the nets curtails injuries to netted birds.

20. Any by catches or birds caught but not required are to be released without delay.

21. Trappers are to regularly tour their birds to ensure that they have ample water and feed. Birds are to be collected or sheltered if it rains or if the wind is strong.

22. A trapping site should only be constructed at a reasonable distance from any neighbouring trapping site.

REGULATIONS OF THE FEDERATION FOR HUNTING AND CONSERVATION – MALTA, DISTRICT COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

Interpretation

1. This Statute was prepared in 1990 and is being amended in 1998 by the Council of the Federation for Hunting and Conservation – Malta, for its District and Sub-Committees, and this by virtue of the powers granted to it by the Federation's Statute. Any decision to revoke, alter or amend or include in these regulations, or any other regulation of the Federation, may only be taken by the Federation's Council.
2. This Statute should be interpreted in conjunction with the Federation's Statute and in the absence of any provisions in any section of this Statute, District Committees and Sub-Committees are to adopt the Federation's policies and adhere to the regulations as stipulated by the Federation's Statute in their general activities.

Name

3. The District will be named; District.....of the Federation for Hunting and Conservation – Malta and a Sub- Committee will be known as Sub- Committee.....of the Federation for Hunting and Conservation – Malta.

Address

4. The official address of the District or Sub-Committee will be that of its secretary, unless the relative District or Sub-Committee has a meeting place, in which case this address may be used. The address is to be notified the Council.

Emblem

5. The Federation's emblem is to be adopted as the District or Sub-Committee's emblem. It must also display the District or Sub-Committees name on the lower end of the emblem.

Intents

6. District or Sub-Committees are intended to enact and observe all the provisions of the Federation's Statute. In line with this, it is to fulfil the directives as expressed and planned by the General Assembly of the District or Sub-Committee.

Membership

7. Membership in a District or Sub-Committee is open to all licenced hunters or trappers insofar that the applicant, unless already thus, becomes a full member of the Federation.
8. District Committees and Sub-Committees are to adhere to the policies and provisions of the Federation's Statute with regards to membership fees.
9. The Secretary of the District Committee or Sub-Committee is to keep a registry of all the District or Sub-Committee members.

Powers and Functions

10. The powers and functions of the District or Sub-Committee lie with the following entities;

The General Assembly and
The Committee and
The Officials.

The General Assembly

11. The District Committee's or Sub-Committee's General Assembly is to be held annually by not later than the first (1st) of March. A written notification of the dates, timings and venue as scheduled by the Committee is to be addressed to all members. The General Assembly meets to:

- (a) Approve the Secretary's Administrative Report.
- (b) Approve the Cashier's Financial Report.
- (c) Be addressed by the President.
- (d) Discuss all matters included in the agenda as well as matters regularly raised during the meeting.
- (e) Appoint a new Committee.
- (f) Appoint the five (5) delegates who will attend the General Council.

12. An Extraordinary General Assembly will be held at a place and time as determined by the Committee or upon the written request submitted by not less than two thirds (2/3) of the district's or sub-committee's members.

13. Members are to indicate any matters to be included in the General Assembly's agenda. Their written requests are to be conveyed not later than fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting date. The General Assembly's agenda is to be submitted to the Council's Secretary not later than seven (7) days prior to the date of the meeting. A Council's delegation is to be invited to the General Assembly.

14. Nominations of Committee candidates are to be submitted to the Secretary not later than 15 days prior to the election. Nominations are to display the candidate's signature as well as the signatures of the two members who in their turn are proposing and seconding his candidature respectively.

15. Any member entitled to attend a general meeting is entitled to only one vote.

16. The District Committee or Sub-Committee President has the right to a casting vote in case of parity.

17. The General Assembly or Extraordinary General Assembly *quorum* is half the members plus one member. In the event that fifteen (15) minutes elapse from the meeting's established timings, and a *quorum* has not yet been reached, the meeting will be held by the present members. Any decision must be taken by the *quorum* members.

Committee and Officials

18. A Committee of not less than three (3) members will administer the District or Sub-Committee.

19. The Committee's Officials and members may not be candidates of any political party of the territory.

20. Should the need arise; the Committee may co-opt any member to any post vacated for whatsoever reason, insofar that the Council is notified in writing.

21. The Committee's Officials are its President, Secretary and Cashier. They are to be appointed by the Committee on its first meeting after the General Assembly.

22. The Committee is to meet at least once monthly.

23. The Committee's *quorum* is three (3) members.

24. If a decision is contested on the basis of a Federation's principle or regulation, the Council's assistance is to be requested and its decision will be final. The same applies to disciplinary cases.

Funds

25. The District Committee's or Sub-Committee's funds are to be employed solely towards achieving the District or Sub-Committee's intents.

26. The Committee has the right of choice of the bank where its funds may be deposited in a bank account that shall bear the name of the Committee.

27. The President and Cashier are jointly responsible for the District or Sub-Committee's funds.

28. The District or Sub-Committee's funds are subject to all the rights and powers of the Federation's Board of Finances.

29. The Accounts Books and Membership Registry may be inspected at any time by any of the District Committee's or Sub-Committee's members insofar that the Committee deems that the member has a valid reason. The Cashier is to be notified in advance and in reasonable time of the member's intent.

Disbandment

Any decision to disband a District Committee or Sub-Committee is subject to the Council's approval after the latter has conducted any investigations it deems necessary.