

REGULATIONS FOR FC BARCELONA SUPPORTERS CLUBS

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

It is well known that throughout their history, the FC BARCELONA penyes (supporters clubs) have played a crucial role in disseminating and promoting the spirit and values of FC BARCELONA. From the 1940s up to the present day, these kinds of associations have steadily increased in number and their support for FC BARCELONA has never faltered.

Today, the Club considers them more necessary and important than ever, as a means to promote its historical values: namely, ethics, public spirit, social inclusion, tolerance, sportsmanship, fair play, solidarity, democracy, the Catalan identity, universality and other values that reflect FC BARCELONA's commitment to society.

The emergence and development of new technologies have reduced the distances between people and have enabled FC BARCELONA fans from around the world to communicate immediately with one another.

Consequently, the steady increase in the number of these associations has made it necessary to draw up a series of standards to help establish a relationship between the Club and its supporters clubs, and to ensure this relationship functions as efficiently as possible.

These regulations, with due respect to the spirit of previous incarnations, serve to update and adjust the relationship between FC BARCELONA and its supporters clubs and to adapt them to meet the needs of our changing times.

I. GENERAL CONCEPTS

Article 1. DEFINITIONS

1. FC BARCELONA supporters clubs are sovereign and independent associations, incorporated in accordance with the terms stipulated in Article 22 of the Spanish Constitution and enforced through the following: their own Articles of Association; the Catalan Associations Act (Act 7/1997 of 18 June); Book Three of the Civil Code of Catalonia relating to legal persons (Act 4/2008

of 24 April), or the equivalent legislation corresponding to each autonomous community; the Right of Association Act (Act 1/2002 of 22 March); legislation that replaces any of the aforementioned acts; or, for foreign supporters clubs, the regulations pertaining to the country in which said club was registered or created. The aim of the supporters clubs is to promote, maintain and improve the representative nature and public profile of FC BARCELONA around the world, to foster the Club's historical values, to promote fraternity among members and supporters, and to support the objectives of the Club.

2. Club supporters are considered to be all those natural persons who are members of an FC BARCELONA supporters club, who voluntarily comply with the Articles of Association of their supporters club and these Regulations, are subject to the rights and obligations imposed herein and in the corresponding legislation, and who are committed to the objectives of both the Club and the supporters club. The Club shall recognise its official supporters by issuing a membership card to all individuals identified as members of an official supporters club. In accordance with the corresponding conditions, which are defined on a yearly basis, this card will allow them to access information, promotions and benefits of all kinds offered to them by the Club and the Supporters Club Movement.

Article 2. LINKS

1. Article 15 of FC BARCELONA's Articles of Association, approved by the Ordinary General Meeting of 19 August 2009, states that "Special consideration shall be given by the Club to the members of associations that support FC BARCELONA's objectives, taking into account their importance in terms of promoting the Club's public profile, while maintaining full respect for the independence of these associations". Therefore, once an FC BARCELONA supporters club has been incorporated in accordance with current regulations and recognised by the Board of Directors, it will hold the rights and obligations inherent to such status as regards its involvement in the Club's social activities, and may be represented at the Supporters Clubs Congress held each year by the Club. The rights and obligations of the supporters clubs and their members as regards their links to FC BARCELONA shall be established in these Regulations governing the supporters clubs, to be approved by the Board of Directors.

2. Under no circumstances may FC BARCELONA be involved in the creation

of a new official supporters club, nor in the operations and/or dissolution of any supporters clubs, notwithstanding the removal of the status of official supporters club in the cases established under Article 10 of these regulations. At all times, FC BARCELONA will provide advice regarding incorporation and registration of the supporters club in the corresponding register and in the Club's Register of Supporters Clubs. The Club will endeavour to provide the necessary forms and information wherever possible.

3. Members of the Club's own committees may not apply to hold a position in an official supporters club, unless they were appointed to the committee by the Club subsequent to holding a position in an official supporters club.

4. As far as possible, supporters clubs shall undertake to participate in all activities linked to FC BARCELONA that are carried out in their region; however, this requirement shall not entail any form of obligation.

Article 3. REQUIREMENTS FOR CREATING AN OFFICIAL FC BARCELONA SUPPORTERS CLUB

The following are essential requirements to obtain and maintain the status of an official supporters club:

a) The President of the supporters club must be a member of FC BARCELONA or a holder of the Club's commitment card, and maintain this status from the time of application onwards. If for any reason (including death) the President loses his/her status as a commitment-card holder or member of FC BARCELONA, the supporters club shall have a period of three months in which to appoint a new President, who must meet the same requirements.

b) Supporters clubs domiciled in Catalonia must have at least five members who are commitment-card holders or members of FC BARCELONA. If the number of Club members or commitment-card holders subsequently falls below five, the supporters club shall have a period of three months in which to acquire the necessary amount of Club members/commitment-card holders in order to regain compliance with this requirement.

c) The supporters club must include the minimum number of members as indicated in the table below, on the basis of the number of inhabitants

registered in the municipality or local community in which the new supporters club is to be incorporated:

INHABITANTS	MINIMUM NO. OF MEMBERS	
	CATALONIA	REST OF SPAIN–WORLD
Up to 2,000	40	25
2,001 to 5,000	60	45
5,001 to 25,000	75	60
More than 25,000	85	70

In exceptional cases, and provided that a favourable report has been made by the corresponding Geographical Federation and justifies the reasons why the supporters club does not meet this requirement (said report must also be signed by the Secretary of the Federation and approved by the President of the Federation and/or the Supporters Club Council Delegate for the area in question), the Board of Directors may take these reports into consideration and, where applicable, allow a supporters club to be incorporated even though it has not reach the minimum level of membership indicated.

d) Two-thirds of the members of the Board of Directors must be registered or habitually reside in the city or town in which the supporters club is located.

e) The supporters club must have a headquarters, whether rented, owned or used on a concessionary basis. Under no circumstances may this be a private dwelling. However, it may be an apartment or premises used to carry out activities of a non-residential nature. If the headquarters is located in a bar, restaurant, shop or other premises open to the public, under no circumstances may the owner or holder of the business or activity assume the position of President of the supporters club or member of the Board of Directors. The Club may refuse to grant the supporters club official status in the event that the business activities carried out at the proposed address are considered to run contrary to the values espoused by the Club.

f) Each supporters club must have its own headquarters and address, which cannot be shared with another supporters club. A post-office box address may not be used as a supporters club headquarters, notwithstanding the ability of a supporters club to have a post-office box for the purposes of

receiving mail.

g) Municipalities or local communities with fewer than 25,000 inhabitants are not permitted to have more than one official supporters club. In those with over 25,000 inhabitants, there must be a distance of at least 1,000 m (1 km) between clubs. Under all circumstances, the corresponding Geographical Federation must submit a report that is favourable to the creation of the new supporters club, with said report to be issued by the Secretary and approved by the President and/or Supporters Club Council Delegate.

h) The supporters club must appoint a spokesperson to communicate with the Club. This person must be a member of the Board of Directors of the supporters club.

i) The name and logo of the supporters club must comply with the stipulations of Article 4 herein.

Article 4. APPLICATION AND NAMING

1. Before a supporters club can be incorporated, the parties concerned must complete and submit an application to the Supporters Club Department, providing the following details:

- Name or organisational name of the supporters club
- Address
- Number of inhabitants of the area in which the supporters club is located
- Contact details of the spokesperson

Within a maximum of 15 days, the Club shall verify whether the application meets the requirements stipulated in Article 3, indicate in writing whether incorporation of the new supporters club can proceed, and inform the party concerned of the next steps that need to be taken.

2. The name of the supporters club must make reference to FC BARCELONA

and preferably to the geographical area in which its activities will be carried out. To prevent confusion, names that are identical or similar to those of existing supporters clubs shall not be permitted.

Names, organisational names or logos that are considered contrary to the Club's values (public spirit, social inclusion, sportsmanship, solidarity, tolerance, ethics, democracy, Catalan identity, universality, fair play, and other values which reflect FC BARCELONA's commitment to society) shall not be accepted.

If the organisational name is to incorporate the name of a specific individual, prior written authorisation from the party concerned (or from his/her direct family members, if s/he is deceased) is required.

3. Supporters clubs may not create or organise championships, academies, clinics or any other type of sporting activity which makes use of FC BARCELONA's image without prior written authorisation from the latter. If a supporters club wishes to organise such an event, it must contact the Club's Supporters Club Department and sign the relevant agreement, which regulates and establishes the conditions for the authorisation of same. Any unauthorised use of FC BARCELONA's image may result in the removal of the supporters club's official status, notwithstanding any claims for damages that may arise.

Article 5. PRIOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Once the Club has agreed in writing that the application proceedings may continue, the parties concerned shall have 90 days to apply for "Prior Acknowledgement" from the Supporters Club Department. To do so, they must fill in the form provided by the Department and include copies of the following documents:

- a) The Founding Charter, in which the name and Club membership number (or commitment-card number) of the President must be included, as well as the name and Club membership number (or commitment-card number) of at least five of the members of the supporters club (for supporters clubs domiciled in Catalonia).
- b) The Articles of Association.

c) A certificate signed by the President and Secretary, indicating the number of pre-registered supporters club members at that time and, where applicable, their Club membership number or commitment-card number.

Once these documents have been checked and analysed, and following receipt of a report from the corresponding Geographical Federation (said report must also be signed by the Secretary of the Federation and approved by the President of the Federation and/or the Supporters Club Council Delegate for the area in question), the Club shall confirm whether the requirements of Article 3 of these Regulations have been met and issue its decision within a maximum of 30 days. If the requirements are deemed to have been met, a certificate expressly authorising use of the requested name and/or other distinguishing elements owned by the Club shall be issued.

If, after 90 days following receipt of the forms and other documentation pertaining to “Prior Acknowledgement” these proceedings have still not begun, the process shall be considered expired and the proposed supporters club name shall be released. A new application must be submitted if the association wishes to restart the process.

Article 6. FORMALISATION

Once the procedures in the previous article have been verified, the supporters club shall be entered into the the following registries (and in any that replace them) within a maximum of 90 days:

- Registration and Support Services for Legal Institutions, under the authority of the Directorate General of Law and Legal Institutions in the Department of Justice, Government of Catalonia (if domiciled in Catalonia).
- The National Registry of Associations for the Government authority in the region in which it is domiciled; or, alternatively, the registry of associations for the corresponding autonomous community (if domiciled elsewhere in Spain).
- For supporters clubs abroad, the National Registry of Associations for the Spanish consulate or embassy in the country in question, provided that all or some of the members are Spanish nationals. If none of the members of

the supporters club are Spanish, the application shall be processed by the competent body in the country in question. To be entered into the above registries, supporters clubs must be legally incorporated in accordance with the applicable legislation.

Once entered into the register, the supporters club shall send a copy of its registration to the Club within a maximum of 30 days following registration.

If, after 90 days, the entry procedure for the corresponding registry has not begun, the name of the supporters club shall be released and a new application must be submitted in order to restart the process.

Likewise, the supporters club shall be obliged to become to join the Federation of Supporters Clubs for the area or region.

Article 7. RATIFICATION

The Club's Board of Directors is responsible for ratifying an association's application to be considered an OFFICIAL SUPPORTERS CLUB. Once the requirements as established in the regulations have been met and the report from the corresponding Geographical Federation (which must also be signed by the Secretary of the Federation and approved by the President of the Federation and/or the Supporters Club Council Delegate for the corresponding area) has been received, the Board of Directors may only refuse to ratify the granting of official status to a supporters club when, having first met with the Supporters Club Union, the Board considers that ratification would be detrimental to the other supporters clubs in the same area or elsewhere, or to the Club or the values espoused by the Club. Following such a refusal, the association shall be obliged to modify its name and logos, if these include any references to the Club's names, brands or logos.

Once the official status of a supporters club has been ratified by the Board of Directors, the Club shall provide written acknowledgement by way of a welcome letter sent by recorded post, and will enter the association in the Club's Register of Official Supporters Clubs. FC BARCELONA shall also provide a supporters club identification card, displaying its name and the OFFICIAL SUPPORTERS CLUB number it has been assigned. Numbers are sequential and based on seniority of membership. This card will be renewed annually at the

beginning of the season, always subject to continued compliance with the regulatory requirements.

Once the supporters club has been entered into the Supporters Club Register, it may enjoy all the privileges and special considerations granted thereto by the FC BARCELONA Articles of Association, regarding its involvement in the Club's social activities. Newly created supporters clubs entered into the Supporters Club Register may not request tickets for finals or A++ matches until three years after their registration.

Article 8. OFFICIAL SUPPORTERS CLUB REGISTER

FC BARCELONA has an Official Supporters Club Register, in which the following details are recorded:

- a) Address, telephone, fax, email address and official website of the supporters club. The creation and/or existence of branches or headquarters differing from the registered address is not permitted.
- b) Name, surname/s, address, national ID no., email address and contact telephone number of supporters club members, indicating which of them are Club members (in which case, their membership number shall also be provided), so that the Club may interact with members of the official supporters clubs and provide news and activities of interest as regards FC BARCELONA and their status as supporters club members. Said interaction may take place via any means or channels in accordance with Article 15 of FC BARCELONA's Articles of Association, which provides for special considerations for members of associations that support the objectives of FC BARCELONA.
- c) Details of the spokesperson or contact person at the supporters club who will be responsible for liaising with FC BARCELONA.
- d) A list of the individuals or members who make up the Board of Directors, and their respective positions.

Article 9. MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to maintaining the conditions established under Article 3 at all times, all supporters clubs shall undertake to ensure their organisation and operations remain active, in compliance with the formal requirements stipulated by law and in these Regulations. They also undertake to update their organisational information on a yearly basis, preferably between January and June, and to inform FC BARCELONA of such updates via such means as its Supporters Club Department may determine at any given time.

The information that must be updated on a yearly basis by each official supporters club is as follows:

- a) Details regarding the holding of its annual meeting, including certification of same signed by the Secretary and approved by the President of the supporters club.
- b) Any changes to the personnel that sit on the Board of Directors, and provision of the corresponding personal information (which must be entered into the Supporters Club Register).
- c) Details regarding membership (subscription of new members, unsubscription).
- d) Any changes to the registered office, telephone or fax numbers, email address or website.
- e) An activities report detailing the celebrations, events and any other functions in which the club has participated, whether (i) organised by the supporters club, (ii) other supporters clubs or (iii) by the Club itself, along with information regarding any sporting events in which the supporters club has participated.

Supporters clubs that do not comply with these requirements shall be considered inactive and may be removed from the Official Supporters Club Register.

Article 10. LOSS AND RECOVERY OF OFFICIAL SUPPORTERS CLUB STATUS

1. If a supporters club does not comply with the requirements stipulated under Article 3, does not update its information in accordance with the stipulations of Article 9, or does not join the corresponding Federation, it will be temporarily removed from the register and will lose the rights and privileges to which it is entitled via its possession of the identification card and its status as an Official Supporters Club. The supporters club may be placed back on the register if it normalises its situation before the start of the following season, without affecting its seniority of membership.

However, should this situation persist for two years, the supporters club shall be permanently removed from the register and shall therefore lose its status as an official FC BARCELONA supporters club, along with the seniority and other entitlements obtained. Nonetheless, a supporters club that has for whatever reason lost its official status may recover it, provided that it meets all the requirements established under articles 3 and 9 and if a favourable report has been received from the corresponding Geographical Federation (which must also be signed by the Secretary of the Federation and approved by the President of the Federation and/or the Supporters Club Council Delegate for the corresponding area) . The date on which the supporters club's official status was recovered shall be taken for the purposes of calculating seniority, and it shall be assigned the number which corresponds to it at that time.

2. Supporters clubs may also lose their official status if they:

- a) Breach any of the obligations established herein.
- b) Misuse any logos owned by FC BARCELONA, thereby creating confusion in legal relations or unfair competition.
- c) Promote any form of violence.
- d) Cause and/or provoke damage to the assets, facilities, rights and/or interests of FC BARCELONA.
- e) Falsify the data submitted to the Club with regard to the requirements established under Article 3 for the creation and maintenance of an official supporters club.

f) Threaten the inherent principles and values of the institution.

3. Supporters clubs which engage in any of the aforementioned actions shall be removed temporarily or permanently from the register, according to the severity of the conduct in question.

Removal of a supporters club may be initiated by the Club of its own accord or at the request of any interested party.

Once a file has been opened on the issue in question, the Supporters Club Department shall send a copy of it to the Supporters Club Ombudsman, the Supporters Club Council Delegate and the supporters club concerned. Within a period of 15 days, the corresponding Geographical Federation shall then issue a report (signed by the Secretary of the Federation and approved by the President of the Federation and/or the Supporters Club Council Delegate for the corresponding area) and the supporters club can submit its response to the charges made, along with suggestions for such evidentiary procedures as it deems appropriate.

After said evidentiary procedures have taken place, under the supervision of the Supporters Club Ombudsman, the Ombudsman shall issue a proposed resolution, which will be submitted to FC BARCELONA's Board of Directors for a final decision.

II. ORGANITZACIÓ DEL MOVIMENT DE PENYES

Article 11. GEOGRAPHICAL ORGANISATION

1. The Supporters Club Movement is organised on a geographical basis in the form of Geographical Federations. Each Geographical Federation represents the supporters clubs that are located within its catchment area. Supporters clubs are obliged to join the corresponding Geographical Federation for their area, in accordance with the criteria for geographical organisation as defined herein.

2. Within their respective catchment areas, the objective of the geographical federations is to promote the Supporters Club Movement, foster the

organisation of activities, help build relationships between supporters clubs and represent the supporters clubs that are located within their respective catchment areas.

3. The geographical federations have their own legal status, and possess the regulatory capacity to pursue their stated objectives. They are governed by the legislation that applies on the basis of their geographical location, by their Articles of Association and by these Regulations, and must also be duly entered into the corresponding register.

4. In order to ensure that organisational practices are harmonised, FC BARCELONA shall make available to all geographical federations a statutory framework establishing certain minimum obligations, while respecting in all instances the diversity, name and basic operation of each federation.

5. There shall be only one Geographical Federation for each of the following geographical areas:

1. Barcelonès Este
2. Barcelonès Oeste
3. Vallès
4. Maresme
5. Baix Llobregat
6. Anoia, Alt Penedès and Garraf
7. Bages, Berguedà and Cerdanya
8. Osona, Ripollès
9. Empordà and Catalunya Nord
10. Gironès, Selva, Garrotxa and Pla de l'Estany
11. Terres de l'Ebre (Baix Ebre, Montsià, Terra Alta, Ribera d'Ebre and Baix Maestrat)
12. Tarragona Nord (Alt Camp, Baix Camp, Conca de Barberà, Priorat, Tarragonès and Baix Penedès)
13. Ponent Nord (Alt Urgell, Alta Ribagorça, La Noguera, Pallars Jussà, Pallars Sobirà, Solsonès and La Vall d'Aran), Franja Nord and Andorra
14. Lleida Sud (Garrigues, Pla d'Urgell, Segarra, Segrià and Urgell) and Franja Central
15. The counties of Castellón
16. The counties of Valencia and Marina Alta
17. The counties of Alicante

18. Balearic Islands
19. Andalusia, Ceuta and Melilla
20. Murcia
21. Castilla-La Mancha
22. Extremadura
23. Madrid
24. Castilla-León
25. Galicia
26. Asturias and Cantabria
27. Basque Country / Euskadi
28. Aragón, La Rioja and Navarra
29. Canary Islands
30. World

6. Following an express written request from an official supporters club, FC BARCELONA shall - if it deems it appropriate - authorise said club's switch from one Geographical Federation to another, provided that said switch is justified on the basis of geographical proximity or road links and that the Club has received a favourable report on the matter from the corresponding geographical federations (said report to be signed by the secretaries of the federations and approved by the respective presidents and/or Supporters Club Council delegates for the corresponding areas).

7. The distribution and names of the various geographical regions and areas may be altered at any time by FC BARCELONA at its own discretion, or when it is necessary to adapt them in accordance with administrative changes of a territorial nature.

Article 12. THE CONGRESS

1. The Congress constitutes the decision-making entity for the Supporters Club Movement, and is made up of:

- a. A maximum of 1,000 representatives elected democratically by the geographical federations on the basis of a census of supporters clubs and supporters (with said census to be closed when the Congress is convened) and in accordance with the Regulations approved by the Supporters Club Council.

b. The members of the Supporters Club Council.

c. The members of the Social Commission and Supporters Club Commission (who have the right to speak, but not to vote).

Collectively, the representatives of a Geographical Federation constitute a delegation.

2. The Congress is held on an ordinary basis once per year, and is convened by the Supporters Club Council. In extraordinary circumstances, a Congress may also be convened by the Supporters Club Council or when 30% of supporters clubs request it.

The Congress is fully empowered to issue decisions pertaining to all aspects of the Supporters Club Movement, and in particular the following:

- To revise the Supporters Club Regulations
- To approve or reject the papers presented at the Congress
- To approve or reject the appointment of executives to the Supporters Club Council

3. Ordinarily the Congress is convened in advance, with the corresponding notification to contain details of the agenda, the Congress regulations and the keynote speakers approved by the Supporters Club Council. The geographical federations shall be granted sufficient time to submit suggestions and/or changes regarding the list of speakers. Once said suggestions have been received, and a minimum of 15 days before the date on which the Congress is to be held, they are sent out to the other geographical federations along with the Management Report issued by the Executive Committee of the Supporters Club Movement and the Supporters Club Council.

Congresses of an extraordinary nature must be convened with minimum advance notice of 30 days, and only the agenda items proposed by the body that convened the Congress may be discussed.

4. The Congress Regulations are responsible for establishing the criteria regarding the allocation of representatives for each delegation or Geographical Federation, appointing the members of the Congress Roundtable, and

regulating the general operation of the Congress.

5.The official language of the Congress is Catalan, as it is for the Club, in accordance with Article 6 of FC BARCELONA's Articles of Association.

Article 13. THE SUPPORTERS CLUB COUNCIL

1. The Supporters Club Council is the senior decision-making body for the Supporters Club Movement, for the period between congresses. It is responsible for:

- a) Fostering relationships between supporters clubs and dealing with any issues raised by them, issuing such reports and proposals as may be required.
- b) Communicating and passing on the information, recommendations and proposals received from FC BARCELONA to the supporters clubs.
- c) Convening the Congress and approving the Congress Regulations.
- d) Where applicable, drawing up and approving the regulations for its own internal operation.
- e) Choosing, and where applicable dismissing, the members of the Executive Committee.
- f) Approving or rejecting, in full or in part, the appointment of senior executives to the Executive Committee of the Supporters Club Movement.
- g) Approving the replacement of the members of the Executive Committee.
- h) Forming the different subject-based and working committees, and approving their activities and objectives.
- i) Approving (or otherwise) the resolutions passed by the subject-based and working committees.

2. The Supporters Club Council is made up of the following:

- The President of the Geographical Federation (or the individual that replaces him/her), who is elected at the federation's Assembly from among the members of the Board of Directors and must under all circumstances be a member of FC BARCELONA.
 - In the event that a greater number of representatives is required as a consequence of the number of supporters club members, said representatives shall be elected at the federation's Assembly from among the members of the Board of Directors.
 - For a single term, the previous President of the Supporters Club Council (if different from the current President).
3. The Supporters Club Council shall hold an ordinary meeting once per quarter, and may hold extraordinary meetings at the behest of the Executive Committee or in response to a written request submitted by no less than a quarter of the members of the Council. The meetings shall be held at the offices of FC BARCELONA and shall be chaired by the President of FC BARCELONA and/or the Vice President of the Social Area (or his/her representative).

Article 14. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Executive Committee is responsible for implementing the decisions approved at the Congress and by the Supporters Club Council, and must report its actions to the latter every quarter.
2. The members of the Executive Committee are democratically elected from among the members of the Supporters Club Council. The election process takes place the month following the formation of the Council. The Committee is made up of seven individuals, and incorporates a President, two Vice Presidents and four Area Secretaries.
3. The Executive Committee is responsible for:
 - a) Maintaining the relationship with FC BARCELONA.
 - b) Implementing the decisions made at the Supporters Club Congress and by the Supporters Club Council.

- c) Promoting the activities of the Council via the creation of working committees as a means to boost the Supporters Club Movement.
- d) Appoint the members who will sit on the different working committees and/or other bodies pertaining to FC BARCELONA.
- e) Guarantee the operations of the bodies pertaining to the Movement.

III. SOCIAL AREA

MONITORING AND COOPERATION BODIES PERTAINING TO FC BARCELONA

Article 15. THE SOCIAL AREA

The Social Area is made up of: the Social Committee, the Supporters Club Committee, the Supporters Club Department and the Supporters Club Ombudsman.

Article 16. THE SOCIAL COMMISSION

The Social Commission is chaired by the Vice President of the Social Area or by his/her representative, and its members are appointed by the Board of Directors in accordance with the powers granted thereto in Article 29 section e) of the Club's Articles of Association. The powers and functions of the Social Commission are established by the Board of Directors, and include the maintenance, promotion and development of FC BARCELONA's relationship with its supporters clubs.

Article 17. THE SUPPORTERS CLUB COMMISSION

The Supporters Club Commission is chaired by the Vice President of the Social Area or by his/her representative, and its members are appointed by the Social Committee.

Its responsibilities include representing FC BARCELONA at the functions and events organised by the supporters clubs.

The members of the Social Commission may attend the Supporters Club Council meetings held by the Club, in accordance with the criteria established by FC BARCELONA's Social Committee.

Article 18. THE SUPPORTERS CLUB DEPARTMENT

The Supporters Club Department is responsible for coordinating and developing the Club's relationship with the official supporters clubs, and for informing, advising and otherwise attending to the needs of said clubs.

Article 19. THE SUPPORTERS CLUB OMBUDSMAN

1. The Supporters Club Ombudsman is responsible for ensuring goodwill amongst the various official supporters clubs and the honest and efficient application of the agreements between the Club and the supporters clubs; it undertakes to ensure continued coordination and to share information with the Supporters Club Council and the parties involved.

2. It is empowered to:

a) Defend and protect the rights of the supporters clubs, provided that any proposed measures do not encroach on the authority of the member's union.

b) Act as a mediator in order to broker consensus in disputes between supporters clubs and the Club management, from which it may obtain such information as it deems necessary. It may also do the same in disputes between supporters clubs, when requested to do so by the Club or by a member of the Supporters Club Council. Likewise, it may also perform this role in disputes between supporters clubs and the area delegate for the Supporters Club Council, when requested to do so by a supporters club or by said delegate. If said request originates from the supporters club, the delegate in question must be informed of such. The Union may also intervene in any disputes between different geographical federations, when it is requested to do so by the Club or by the boards of directors of the federations concerned.

- c) Submit suggestions to the Board of Directors which it deems appropriate as regards defending the rights of the supporters clubs.
 - d) Understand, be aware and have a say in preparing the list of supporters clubs recognised by the institution.
 - e) Attend the meetings of the Supporters Club Council, at which it has the right to speak but not to vote; and, where applicable, to attend supporters club events.
 - f) Participate in joint meetings between the Supporters Club Council, Social Committee and supporters clubs, with the right to speak but not to vote.
 - g) Resolve any appeals which have been brought before it in relation to the election processes for the boards of directors of the geographical federations.
3. The Ombudsman shall only intervene when requested to do so by:
- a) The President or representative of a supporters club.
 - b) A member of the Supporters Club Council.
 - c) The President of a Geographical Federation of Supporters Clubs.
 - d) An executive or board member of the Club.
4. As an institutional member, the Union will represent the Club at any event it is instructed to attend by the senior management of the Club's Social and Institutional areas.

IV. CELEBRATIONS, EVENTS AND PROTOCOL

Article 20. ORGANISATION OF EVENTS

- 1. Supporters clubs shall individually or collectively hold whichever meetings, functions or events (hereinafter referred to collectively as 'events') they consider appropriate, ensuring that said events always respect the aims

defined by the Club's Articles of Association and in accordance with its values. For representation purposes, FC BARCELONA shall give priority to group events; that is, those which involve more than one supporters club ('supporters club events').

2. Supporters clubs that are interested in holding events and request the participation of FC BARCELONA representatives must submit their proposal and schedule in writing to the Club's Supporters Club Department, giving at least one month's notice. Supporters clubs located outside Catalonia and which request the participation of FC BARCELONA representatives in an event shall endeavour to ensure said event is held to coincide with a match played by one of the Club's teams.

3. The proposal must set out the following:

a) The type of event.

b) The day, month, time and place the event will be held.

c) The schedule.

d) The local, municipal, county, provincial and other authorities invited, and their anticipated level of attendance.

e) The approximate number of attendees expected.

4. The Club shall review all the participation proposals it receives and shall establish a schedule of events it will attend.

Article 21. CLUB PARTICIPATION

1. For all cases in which the participation of Club representatives has been requested, FC BARCELONA shall decide which events it will or will not attend. If it decides to attend, it shall then determine which individuals shall represent it at each event (President, directors, members of the Social and Supporters Club committees, or other representatives nominated by the Club), according to their availability. If the Club decides to attend the event, it shall also establish the schedule of activities within said event. The supporters clubs shall be

required to adhere to said schedule. Under all circumstances, participating FC BARCELONA representatives shall be considered the highest authority at the event, along with the local representatives of the town or place in which the event is being held, and/or other institutional authorities where applicable. Confirmation of the attendance of Club representatives will be given to the supporters club a maximum of three weeks before the event, provided the corresponding request was submitted within the period established in Article 20.

FC BARCELONA may modify said period and change its representation at any time, as a result of scheduling and/or unforeseen commitments.

2. FC BARCELONA shall prioritise their representation at events on the basis of the importance of said events and in the following order:

- a) 50th anniversary celebrations of supporters clubs.
- b) Geographically based events.
- c) 25th anniversary celebrations of supporters clubs.
- d) Openings of the headquarters of newly incorporated supporters clubs.
- e) Openings of the new premises of existing supporters clubs.
- f) Events that have been organised by supporters clubs on a quinquennial basis since their incorporation.
- g) Other anniversaries, ceremonies, meetings, conferences and celebrations.

When nominating its representative for the event, FC BARCELONA shall also take into consideration the number of attendees, the seniority of the supporters club, whether the event coincides with any trips taken for sporting purposes, the activities of the supporters club, etc.

Article 22. SUPPORTERS CLUB WORLD MEETING

1. Once per year, a supporters club shall be responsible for organising the

Supporters Club World Meeting, in collaboration with FC BARCELONA. The Club and the host supporters club shall organise the Meeting in close collaboration, with the aim of ensuring optimum quality and quantity of events and activities, maximum attendance of supporters, optimum levels of media coverage and, in particular, the promotion of the spirit and values of FC BARCELONA.

2. Any agreement regarding sponsorship or publicity for the World Meeting, via any medium, must be authorised in writing by FC BARCELONA.

3. Any supporters clubs that wish to host the World Meeting must apply in writing to FC BARCELONA, within the period following the end of the previous World Meeting and the beginning of the next month of March. Under all circumstances, the application must be received by the Club four months before the date set for the Meeting immediately prior to the one for which the applications are being submitted.

4. Candidate supporters clubs must provide supporting documentation, demonstrating:

a) Their organisational capacity.

b) That they possess sufficient materials and human resources.

c) That they meet the minimum infrastructure requirements to hold the event.

d) That they will be given the necessary institutional support. They must also supply a draft of the event schedule.

It is also recommended that candidate supporters clubs be in possession of a favourable report from the corresponding Geographical Federation, signed by the Secretary of the Federation and approved by the President of the Federation and/or the Supporters Club Council Delegate for the corresponding area.

5. FC BARCELONA shall summon the members of the Supporters Club Council to meet at the Club's offices, in order that the candidate supporters clubs may present their candidature and submit the corresponding documentation. Through its representative, each Geographical Federation must then summon

the supporters clubs within its catchment area to notify them of, discuss and vote on the different candidates.

6. Subsequently, those members of the Supporters Club Council shall meet again at FC BARCELONA's offices to vote (in accordance with the outcome of the vote in their respective geographical federations) for the candidates in order of preference, with the winner being the candidate that has gained the greatest number of points. In the event of a tie, a second vote shall be held for the candidates who received the same number of points.

7. The winning candidate, and the date on which next year's World Meeting is to be held, shall be announced at the World Meeting taking place during the current year, if possible as part of the activities of the congress. Once the winning candidate has been named the 'OFFICIAL HOST SUPPORTERS CLUB', it shall form a World Meeting Organising Committee in conjunction with FC BARCELONA and the local authorities concerned, in order to carry out the activities pursuant to the event's success. While carrying out said activities, the Organising Committee may also collaborate with the Geographical Federation for the corresponding area.

8. The World Meeting may include a forum, congress and/or conference on current issues related to FC BARCELONA and official supporters clubs.

FIRST TEMPORARY PROVISION

For the next Supporters Club Council elections, in anticipation of the fact that the supporters' census will not have been completed, the number of delegate places on the Supporters Club Council for each geographical area shall remain the same, regardless of the planned changes to the map of supporters clubs (except for those areas where there were fewer than 15 official supporters clubs at the time of the 2012 Supporters Club Congress). Taking the existing census of supporters clubs as a starting point, along with the new census of supporters being carried out, the value of the votes of each of the geographical federations at the Congress (without modifying the number of delegates until the next Congress is convened) shall be proportional to the number of supporters clubs and supporters in each area, subject to regulatory approval.

SECOND TEMPORARY PROVISION

Where applicable, those supporters clubs that are currently inscribed in FC BARCELONA'S official register must carry out any changes as may be required in order to comply with Article 3 of these Regulations, within a maximum of 18 months starting from the entry into force of these Regulations.

FINAL PROVISIONS

First.- MODIFICATIONS TO THE REGULATIONS

All queries and/or incidents arising from the application of these Regulations shall be resolved by FC BARCELONA's Social Commission.

These Regulations shall be interpreted and implemented by FC BARCELONA's Social Committee.

Two.- EFFECTIVE DATE

These regulations were approved by the FC BARCELONA Board of Directors on the meeting held on the 4th of March 2013.

