



Statutes of the NATO Marlins

Updated : Monday, 4 September 2006

1. The Association shall be known as the "**NATO Marlins**" and is henceforth referred to as the NMS or the club. It forms part of the NATO Cultural and Sports Clubs (NCSC) and is located at the NATO Staff Center Swimming Pool, NATO Headquarters, Brussels, Belgium.
2. The primary **objective** of the NMS is to promote an interest in swimming among children and adults belonging to the NATO Staff Center. The NMS will seek to help swimmers to develop their swimming techniques and to improve their stamina through regular training sessions. In addition, for those members who wish to participate in competitive events, we have established 2 affiliations. Children under the age of 19 fulfill the eligibility requirements of the European Forces Swimming League, and may take part in competition in the age range of 18 and under. Adults who wish to compete may do so with Sport City a swim club within the Belgian league. The NMS is totally non-profit making and seeks to cultivate a spirit of team membership and competitiveness through the development and application of swimming skills. The NMS exists to help adult members learn to swim and/or improve from a basic swimming standard, possibly to a competition level ability, if the member has the ability and determination.
3. **Membership** in the NMS is open to family members and employees from all NATO, national delegations, military representatives and PfP partner missions. It is also open to the following external organisations; Sabena Air, Eurocontrol, Sabca, Avia, Western European Union, KPMG, as well as any other person who is eligible to become a member of the NATO Staff Center. Membership in the NMS is subject to the necessary security requirements being fulfilled and the required fees being paid to the Staff Center, in accordance with the NATO Cultural and Sports Committee (NCSC) rules.
4. **Fees** are payable to the club at the start of each term (autumn/winter/spring for the Learn-to-Swim and autumn/spring for the competitive programs) are decided by the club executive. They will be set such that they are sufficient to cover tuition costs, pool insurance, coaching fees, bank charges, material purchases, advertising fees, EFSL team & entry fees and any other costs incurred by the NMS. The fees are to be paid by bank transfer where possible, stating the name of the swimmer and the term in the information area. All individuals are responsible for payment of their own entrance fees to the swimming pool. Staff Center contributions must also be paid by all members. Members of the Executive Committee may be consulted about the level of these fees, if necessary.
5. The NATO Marlins organization is divided into five branches: the President, Vice-President, Athletic Director, Treasurer and Secretary. Together with the head coach position, they make up the *Executive Committee*. With the exception of these appointments a number of other members and/or parents may be invited to sit on the committee at the discretion of the Executive Officers. All official meetings shall be presided over by at least one member of the Executive. If none of these members are available, someone may be appointed to act on their behalf for the duration set by that select member. Other offices to be held in the NMS include but are not limited to a Meet Coordinator, Transport Coordinator, Advertising &

Membership Drive Coordinator, Concession Coordinator, and Social & Fund Raising & Charity Coordinator.

6. Each year the NMS will hold an end of year banquet during which time the “**Annual General Meeting**” will be held. All members of the NMS will be invited and the club shall elect new officers who may or may not be existing committee members. Any new executive officers are to be introduced at this time and given an opportunity to explain why they are the best candidate for the position. All positions will be held for approximately 12 months, with the tenure to start immediately after election during the banquet. Positions may be filled by the same person for more than one term if so elected. All NMS members are to be made aware that this banquet will also include the meeting so that they may forward any items to be included on the agenda in advance of the meeting. Meeting notes will be taken at all Executive committee meetings and the minutes will be posted on the NMS website.
7. Consensus will be used where possible to make decisions. Should this prove impossible, the committee will use a simple voting system to reach a decision, with the President having the deciding vote.
8. The Statutes will be made available to all members of the club, and any suggestions for changes to the rules may be proposed by any of the aforementioned. Changes to these statutes must be voted on and approved by the Executive Committee of the NATO Marlins. A copy of these rules is to be lodged with the Secretary General of the NCSC.

Lori MacRae
President
NATO Marlins