



ECHDO
European Congenital
Heart Disease Organisation

ECHDO Statutes Member-Friendly Guide

A plain-English guide to how the charity works. [Full statutes can be found on our website.](#)

Date: 08 April 2026

1. Who we are

ECHDO is the European Congenital Heart Disease Organisation, a Belgian non-profit charity working in English for members across Europe.

2. What we do

We improve life for people with congenital heart disease through advocacy, research support, awareness, safe care, and cooperation with other organisations.

3. Membership

National groups, parent organisations, regional groups, and related healthcare organisations can join. Each organisation appoints one representative.

4. Voting rights

Active members who have paid their membership fee can vote. Associate and honorary members can participate but normally do not vote.

5. Board

The Board manages the organisation, finances, strategy, records, and legal responsibilities. It includes 5–9 elected members.

6. General Assembly

This is the main annual meeting where active members approve important decisions, elect board members, and vote on major changes.

7. Money

All income must only support ECHDO's charitable goals. Accounts are reviewed independently by internal auditors.

8. Rule changes

The statutes can only be changed by a formal member vote at the General Assembly.

9. If ECHDO closes

Any remaining funds must go to another charity with similar goals, never to individuals.

Quick FAQ

- Who can vote? → Active members with valid voting rights.
- Can another member vote for us? → Yes, by proxy.
- Who checks the money? → Independent internal auditors.
- Who decides the annual fee? → The General Assembly.
- Can the Board remove a member? → Yes, if rules are broken or ECHDO is harmed.