

# **INTERNAL REGULATIONS FOR SIVCBD – SYNDICAT DES VIGNERONS EN CULTURE BIO-DYNAMIQUE - BIODYVIN**

(INTERNATIONAL SYNDICAT OF WINE GROWERS IN BIO-DYNAMIC CULTURE)

Updated during the General Meeting of January 14, 2018

## **ARTICLE 1: REGULATORY COMMITMENTS**

Any producer of wine at a property and/or Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée (PGI) wine, who is a member or applicant, undertakes to comply with the legislation in force in their country, in addition to any specific rules (e.g. the INAO in France for the Appellations d'Origine Contrôlée). Any member agrees to abide by the rules and controls of organic farming in force in his country.

## **ARTICLE 2: CONDITIONS OF USE OF THE "BIODYVIN" BRAND OR LABEL**

"BIODYVIN", with or without the logo representing a bunch and grape leaf, is a registered trademark of the SIVCBD.

The use of the "Biodyvin" trademark (or label) is reserved for members of the SIVCBD who undertake to respect these rules of procedure and the specifications defined in article 3.

It can be used:

- To certify "Biodyvin" wines issued from biodynamic practices defined in the "Biodyvin" requirements specifications.
- For the communication of domains around their biodynamic practices certified "Biodyvin".

Its value to everyone depending on its proper use by each, any breach of the rules and / or specifications exposes the member, within the scope and limits defined in this regulation, to the immediate withdrawal of the right to use the mark "Biodyvin" for its cuvées and / or for its communication.

## **ARTICLE 3: SPECIFICATIONS - CERTIFICATION OF BIODYNAMIC BIODYVIN PRACTICES**

The requirements specification "Biodyvin" sets the rules for cultivation and winemaking. It is established and amended by the Comité de Direction, management committee of SIVCBD.

In particular, it determines a minimum annual work plan for biodynamic cultivation.

All members undertake to respect the "Biodyvin" specifications and to keep a document that will ensure traceability. All members undertake to submit to all the controls decided by the management committee.

In particular, any member undertakes to facilitate the control of compliance with the "Biodyvin" specifications by the certifying body delegated by the SIVCBD.

Every year, cases of non-compliance with the "Biodyvin" specifications are examined by the Executive Committee during a special meeting. A member of the Executive Committee affected by a case of non-compliance may not attend this meeting.

Consequences for non-compliance include:

- The written reminder to the rule,
- the notice to comply with the specifications,
- The rejection of the "Biodyvin" certification for one or more vintages, or even for the entire harvest of the concerned vintage,
- The obligation to return to the first year or second year or third year of conversion to biodynamics "Biodyvin" according to the seriousness of the facts.
- The loss of the right to communicate on the brand "Biodyvin" (including the prohibition of any reference to Biodyvin on letterhead, mails, website, social networks, communication to the press, etc ... without this list of examples being limited).
- The temporary or definitive exclusion of the association in the most serious cases.

Decisions are taken by a majority of the present. These decisions will be recorded in minutes.

#### **ARTICLE 4: WINES APPROVAL**

For the purpose of advice, consultation and quality research, the Management Committee reserves the right to have tastings carried out on the wines marketed, in order to validate the conformity of the wines with the qualitative requirements of the SIVCBD.

#### **ARTICLE 5: TASTING COMMITTEE**

The "tasting committee" is composed of the entire members of the Management Committee.

It may join, when it considers it as useful, non-members of the management committee.

The tasting committee is in charge of approving the wines of the members and those of the domains applying for entry to the SIVCBD.

It meets at least once a year, in principle at the beginning of July.

The approval of a wine or its refusal is given to the majority of the attending members.

The criteria for approval or refusal of approval of a wine are debated and freely set by the tasting committee.

The approval tasting of the areas applying for entry to the SIVCBD is not made blind. It is enlightened by the comments of those who visited the estate.

The refusal of approval of a wine coming from a domain applying for entry into the SIVCBD does not have to be justified other than by the democratic criterion (majority of tasters having voted the refusal of approval).

In case of refusal of approval of a wine of a member of the SIVCBD who is no longer in conversion period, the tasting committee motivates its decision. The estate may submit any request to defend the quality of its wine in an equitable manner.

The evaluations and comments of tasting of each member of the Committee can be communicated outside the Committee only anonymously. The members of the tasting committee will respect this anonymity.

#### **ARTICLE 6: CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION**

Wine growers (or wine estates) who are eligible for the following conditions are eligible to apply:

- To be in biodynamic culture on the whole of the wine-making domain the year of candidacy.
- At least in the third year of conversion to organic farming on the entire wine estate in the year of application (a part of vineyard in recent conversion due to new acquisition may be tolerated).
- Being able to present wines from the second year of organic conversion the year of application.

The candidate will have to complete and present a complete admission file to the SIVCBD Secretariat. The file will be examined by the Executive Committee, which has all the powers to decide on the suitability of an application. If the file is accepted by the Executive Committee, a "Sponsor", member of the Management Committee, will be appointed. He will visit the domain, possibly accompanied by another SIVCBD member.

A visit report will be prepared and presented to the Management Committee.

If the visit is validated by the Management Committee, the candidate is invited to present 3 representative wines (already bottled wines) to the Tasting Committee which will taste them in principle at the beginning of July of the year of application.

Depending on the result of the tasting, the estate will be refused or accepted.

The new accepted estate will be controlled by our certifying organization (Ecocert) within the year of admission. It will be able to take part in all the meetings, trainings days organized by the SIVCBD and will be able to use the mark (possibly accompanied by the logo) "Biodyvin" with obligatorily the mention "organic wine and in biodynamic conversion" on the wines issued from the second and third year of certification.

As soon as the estate **disposes of wines issued from the second year of conversion to "Biodyvin"** it will be able to present them to the collective tastings organized by Biodyvin, and will only present wines from this vintage.

At the end of these 3 years of control, and after possible tasting of 3 wines of the last vintage of the conversion by the tasting committee, the estate can claim on the wines issued from the 4<sup>th</sup> year of Biodyvin certification, the use of the Biodyvin trademark (possibly accompanied by the logo "Biodyvin") without any mention or with the mention "organic and biodynamic wine".

## **ARTICLE 7: PERIOD OF CONVERSION TO BIODYNAMY - POSSIBLE REDUCTION**

The conversion period to biodynamic "Biodyvin" is 3 years. The Biodyvin certification is obtained the 4th year. In view of the admission file, the Management Committee may reduce the conversion period within the following limits:

### **1 ° Estates with certified organic seniority:**

- at least 7 years of organic certification (excluding conversion period) the year of application: the biodynamic conversion period can be reduced by 2 years (so it can be reduced to 1 year).
- at least 5 years of organic certification (excluding conversion period) the year of application: the biodynamic conversion period can be reduced by one year (so it can be reduced to 2 years).

### **2 ° Estates with certified organic seniority + certified biodynamic seniority:**

- at least 4 years of organic certification (excluding the conversion period) + 4 years at least of biodynamic certification (all periods including conversion periods) the year of application: the conversion period can be deleted.
- at least 3 years of organic certification + 3 at least biodynamic certification the year of application: the conversion period can be reduced by 2 years (so it can be reduced to 1 year).
- at least 2 years of organic certification + 2 at least biodynamic certification the year of application: the conversion period can be reduced by 1 year (so it can be reduced to 2 years).

## **ARTICLE 8: MONITORING THE CONVERSION**

Each Biodyvin member will have to attend a 2 days of biodynamic training session organized by the SIVCBD at least once.

Each new member agrees to participate in the first General Assembly following his entry into the SIVCBD to be able to present himself to all members.

The management committee reserves the right to taste the wines of a Biodyvin member at any time.

The non-acceptance of wines by the Committee, may result in the loss of the use of the Biodyvin label from the vintage tasted.

## **ARTICLE 9: RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTATION**

All members agree to propose to have on their domain an experimental activity within the framework of biodynamic research. By the same token, he undertakes to communicate the results to the union and not to show any information retention.

## **ARTICLE 10: PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS ORGANIZED BY SIVCBD**

The amount of registration fees requested for participation in events (including trade fairs and assembly) organized by the SIVCBD depending on the number of participants in the event, the commitment of a member cannot be canceled beyond a date fixed by the Committee or the Executive Board. Cancellation beyond this date requires the member to pay all the fees.

**ARTICLE 11: QUALITY OF MEMBER.**

In accordance with article 2 of the bylaws, membership is conferred either on a winemaker or on a winemaking estate practicing biodynamics throughout his vineyard.

The "winegrower" is the natural person who manages his vineyard in his own name.

The "wine estate" is a legal structure (company, joint ownership) that manages a vineyard. Any legal entity must appoint to the Management Committee its natural person representative, chosen from among the persons who direct the works in the vineyard and cellar, and having sufficient knowledge of biodynamics.

Any change in the "winegrower", or any major change in the distribution of the property or management team on the "wine estate", must be reported to the Executive Committee, which has full authority to refuse or accept, with or without conditions (including training in biodynamics) the new owner or new managers.

**ARTICLE 12: RESIGNATION**

Any resignation must be in writing. In the event of resignation after 31 December, the contribution of the current financial year may be claimed in full.

The departing member loses from the day of his resignation the opportunity to communicate around the brand "Biodivin". It only retains the possibility of marketing, with mention of the brand, wines already bottled.

In addition, as for any member, in accordance with Articles 3 and 4 and 5

of these rules of procedure, the Executive Committee may have the wine tasted and analyzed and the approval refused.

**ARTICLE 13: RADIATION OR EXCLUSION**

A domain struck off, excluded or whose approval has been refused in accordance with article 9 of the statutes immediately loses the right to communicate on the use of the "Biodivin" trademark. It only retains the possibility of marketing, with the mention of the brand, wines already bottled.

However, in accordance with Articles 3 and 4 and 5 of these Rules of Procedure, the Board of Management may have the wine tasted, tested and rejected.

I, the undersigner (Name, Surname, Domain): .....

Certify on the honor that I practice biodynamics on the whole of my domain since: .....  
and undertake to respect the specifications and the rules of procedure of the SIVCBD.

At : ..... Date : .....

Precede the signature by "I read and approve this commitment"

Signature & Stamp