



Statutes

2010

ACADEMIE D'ARMES INTERNATIONALE

WORLD ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL FENCING ACADEMIES

PREAMBLE

The National Fencing Academies, meeting in Congress on the 21st and 22nd April 1962 in Basle (following a provisional committee created in 1958 and a desire for a Union of the body of masters expressed on the 17th August 1930 at Antwerp), decided to constitute a world organisation bringing together all the National Associations and to give it statutes.

N.B. For all the following statutes, the word "Master" signifies a Diploma Master of an affiliated National Fencing Academy.'

STATUTES

FORM - NAME - HEADQUARTERS - OBJECT

Article 1 - Form

An International Association is formed between those adhering to the present statutes conforming to the current laws and texts which govern the teaching of fencing and physical education.

The official languages are French and English.

The national languages of the different academies are, nevertheless, permitted.

Article 2 - Name

This Association takes the name of "Académie d'Armes Internationale", here-in-after referred to as the "AAI".

It has a coat of arms.

The lifetime of the AAI is perpetual.

Article 3 - Headquarters

The headquarters of the organisation is established as the home of the President.

In the case of a vacancy for President, it can be transferred at any time to some other place by decision of the executive committee.

Article 4 - Object

The AAI has as its goal:

- 4.1 To bring together all the existing National Fencing Academies throughout the world and to encourage Diploma Masters to constitute National Fencing Academies when these do not exist in the countries where they practise;
- 4.2 To ensure and maintain constant fraternal relations between National Fencing Academies;
- 4.3 To represent its members throughout the world with public or private authorities or any other organisation.
- 4.4 To contribute to the principles, rules, techniques and methods of fencing development in all its forms:
- 4.5 To ensure the distribution of all documents relating to fencing;
- 4.6 To promote the technical and educational training of its members by all means, particularly:
 - the organisation of courses
 - the publication of an International journal
 - the development of programmes for examinations together with the composition of the panel of judges responsible for examining the candidates
 - the issuing of the Title of “Master”, “Prévôt”, or “Moniteur” - either by the equivalency of diplomas, or by examination by an appropriate panel of judges approved by the AAI.
- 4.7 The organisation of Congresses or other events relating to fencing.
- 4.8 The organisation of tournaments, Masters World championships etc.

Article 5 - Types of Membership

Membership of the AAI may be accepted by the Executive Committee subject to the approval of Congress and is composed of -

5.1 Full members -

National Academies who can demonstrate that they comply with the requirements of the AAI and represent the best interest of Fencing Masters in their country. Membership of National Academies may include Prévôts and Moniteurs.

5.2 Associate members -

Newly formed Academies may apply for membership of the AAI as Associate members until such times as they can show that they comply with the requirements of the AAI.

5.3 Honorary members

When proposed by the executive committee of the AAI, the title of “Honorary Member” can be awarded by Congress to people who have rendered eminent service to the cause of fencing or the mastery of arms.

5.4 Benefactor Members

The AAI may admit to the title of “Benefactor Member” individuals or institutions that, by their prestige or patronage, do credit to the cause of fencing or the AAI

5.5 Members of honour

When proposed by the executive committee, the title of Honorary Master may be bestowed by the congress to persons whose prestige and influence contribute to serve the cause of the AAI.

5.6 Diploma Fencing Masters may apply for individual membership of the AAI if there is no National Academy where they practice.

5.7 Individual members must be certified by an organisation to standards acceptable to the AAI.

Article 6 - Exclusion - Loss of membership status

Membership status, as defined in the subsequent paragraphs, is lost by:

- resignation (notified in writing)
- exclusion for non payment of annual dues for more than one year
- temporary suspension passed by the disciplinary Commission in case of serious breach of the statutory and regulatory arrangements governing the AAI as well as by any action causing material or moral damage to the AAI.

Article 7 - Disciplinary committee

Disciplinary decisions will be taken by the Executive Committee following recommendations of the Disciplinary Committee.

The Disciplinary Committee shall consist of a Vice-President and two other designates from member Academies.

Any sanction shall be subject to appeal before Congress. Such appeal must be tendered by registered letter within three months of the Committee's decision.

Article 8 - Administration of the AAI

The AAI is administered by an Executive Committee comprising the President and four Vice-Presidents.

The President and four Vice-Presidents are elected every four years by Ordinary Congress. Preferably they should be of differing nationalities.

In the case of death, resignation or vacancy of the Presidency, the General Secretary shall carry out the duties of the President in the interim until the next Congress.

Past Presidents of the AAI may attend meetings of the executive committee, by right, in an advisory capacity, but shall not have a vote on Committee matters.

The elections for the President of the AAI and the four Vice-Presidents shall be by secret ballot.

If, after the first round of elections there is not an absolute majority of the vote there shall be a second round of votes where a simple majority will be sufficient to be elected.

In the case of a tied vote additional rounds may be necessary.

Candidates for the duty of President are proposed by National Academies. Only one candidate per Academy is allowed.

After the election of the President, National Academies may submit candidates for election as Vice-President. Only one candidate per Academy is allowed.

The four candidates who obtain the most votes are elected. In the case the votes are tied between several candidates additional rounds of voting may be necessary if there are more than four candidates.

Following a successful election the new President shall designate one of the Vice-Presidents to be the Secretary General, and another of the Vice-Presidents to be the Treasurer.

The President shall assign various commissions to each of the Vice-Presidents to over-see the aims of the aims of the AAI.

The Executive Committee is elected for four years, and all members are eligible for re-election on completion of their terms of office.

In the case of death, resignation or vacancy within the Committee the next Congress shall elect a new member whose mandate shall terminate with the expiration of the term of office of that Committee.

In the interim the President may nominate a replacement until the next Congress.

Only Fencing Masters may be candidates for the positions of President or Vice-President.

The newly elected Executive Committee shall take office immediately following the election.

Article 9 – Ressources of the AAI

- Affiliations of National Fencing Academies
- Individual member's subscription
- Received subsidies
- Income of any nature received from festivals, conferences, galas, tournaments, publications, etc.

- Revenue from its assets
- Gifts, donations, bequests etc.

Article 10 – Remit of the Executive Committee

The President, assisted by the Executive Committee, directs and administers the AAI. He deals with day-to-day problems and has them approved by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee decides the use of available funds, draws up the annual budget, organises expenditure and the collection of monies.

The President, Secretary-General and the Treasurer shall prepare annual reports for discussion and approval at the bi-annual Congress.

The President shall represent the AAI in law, either as plaintiff or defendant, and without having to justify to any third party, any other power of representation other than that conferred by this present article of the statutes.

Article 11 - Remit of the members of the Executive Committee

The President chairs all meetings and represents the AAI with public and private administrations. He may be accompanied in this capacity by a member of the Executive Committee or any other competent person he considers may be of assistance to him.

The Secretary-General -

- Sets up meetings of the Executive Committee and Congress.
- Notifies in due time the participants of the date of the various meetings.
- Establishes the Agenda of such meetings, in agreement with the President.
- Records the minutes of meetings.
- Deals with all correspondence relating to the AAI.
- Maintains the statutes.
- Produces an annual report.

If there is an administrative staff, it is placed under his supervision.

The Treasurer -

- Is responsible for all financial operations.
- Is responsible for the collection of the annual membership dues.
- Shall send to member Academies a dues notice at the appropriate time.
- Shall maintain a ledger of all income and expenditures.
- Shall maintain a bank account in the name of the Académie d'Armes Internationale.
- Shall give a financial report at every meeting of the Executive Committee or Congress.
- Shall carry out movements of funds subject to direction or approval of the Executive Committee or the President.

The other two members of the Executive Committee shall carry out such commissions as are allocated to them by the President. They may be asked to give a report at every meeting.

Article 12 – Decisions of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the AAI shall meet in plenary session at least once per calendar year. Its decisions are taken by simple majority vote with the President having the casting vote in the case of a tied vote.

In the case of absence of a member from the Committee meeting a postal or e-mail vote on an item on the agenda shall be permitted. Voting by proxy is not allowed.

All members of the Executive Committee shall be notified by the Secretary General not less than thirty days before the date of an upcoming meeting. Such notice shall include the agenda for the meeting.

Article 13 - Audit

The audit shall be carried out by two auditors elected by Congress for two years.

The auditors audit the Finances and Treasurer's report and present a report to Congress. The audit shall be carried out prior to the meeting.

Article 14 - Composition of Congress

Congress is composed of all members duly affiliated with the AAI.

National Academies not affiliated with the AAI, or former members who have not met their financial obligations, may not be represented at the Congress.

National Academies who have no delegate at Congress may not be represented by the President of the AAI or any other National Academy.

Each National Academy shall be represented by one representative designated by his/her National Academy.

Article 15 – Power and Remit of Congress

Congress is the sovereign organ of the AAI.

When validly called and constituted Congress takes decisions which can be imposed on all members.

The Executive Committee is responsible to Congress.

Congress directs the actions of the AAI. It reviews the reports of the Executive Committee, and gives general directives to the Executive Committee.

Decisions of Congress are taken by majority vote of the designated delegates of National Academies present at the meeting.

Only the President and the delegate designated by each National Academy may cast votes.

Voting power varies according to the number of members each National Academy has registered with the AAI at the time of the Congress. The Treasurer shall maintain and present a list of registered members at each Congress.

The voting scale is as follows -

- from 1 to 20 members - one vote
- from 21 to 40 members - two votes
- from 41 to 60 members - three votes
- from 61 to 100 members - four votes
- more than 100 members - five votes.

Individual members and Associate members are not permitted to vote.

Only Diploma Fencing Masters may represent a National Academy.

Article 16 – Meeting of Congress

Congress shall meet every two years.

The Secretary-General shall notify all members of the AAI of the date, time and place of the meeting of Congress not less than thirty days prior to the date of said meeting. This notice shall include the agenda for the meeting prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the President.

The President and the Secretary-General are by right the Chairman and Secretary of the meeting.

All full members and associates of the AAI may be present at the deliberations of the Congress on condition their membership has been substantiated by the Treasurer.

The Executive Committee shall submit to Congress all proposals and resolutions.

Modifications of the statutes must be approved by Congress.

The reports of the President, the Secretary-General and the Treasurer are presented to Congress for discussion and approval.

Congress shall vote on the rates of affiliation submitted by the Executive Committee. The annual rate of affiliation shall be calculated in Euro.

A copy of the annual reports and accounts, and the minutes of meeting shall be distributed to the Presidents of the National Academies in timely fashion by the Secretary General on completion of Congress.

Congress may meet in extraordinary session whenever the interests of the AAI demand it, or at the request of the Executive Committee, or at the request of one quarter of the duly affiliated National Academies.

Article 17 – Dissolution and Liquidation

The Academie d'Armes Internationale may be dissolved by Congress following such a proposal by the Executive Committee. Such a proposal may be made when the AAI is no longer able to meet its objectives.

Only an Extraordinary General Meeting can dissolve the AAI and the allocation of its capital. In such case the presence at such an Extraordinary meeting of representatives of two-thirds of the affiliated National Academies shall be required and any decisions shall require a two-thirds majority vote. Notice of such a meeting shall be made in writing to all National Academies not less than sixty days prior to the meeting. If a quorum of attendance is not met at this meeting a second meeting shall be scheduled within ninety days, but not less than forty-five days. At this second Extraordinary General Meeting decisions may be made and accepted by a two-thirds majority vote of those present irrespective of the number of representatives present.

In case of voluntary or forced dissolution the Extraordinary Congress shall decide, without appeal, the distribution or use of any assets or property of the AAI after the settlement of any liabilities. The Executive Committee in office shall be charged with carrying out the liquidation in accordance with the decisions of the Extraordinary Congress and shall have extensive powers to pay liabilities, realise assets and distribute property as directed.

Drawn up at LIÈGE, on 18th April 1990
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