



**THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF OLYMPIC COLLECTORS, IAOC**

# **STATUTES**

**22 May 2014, Lausanne**

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## 1. CONSTITUTION

1.1 The International Association of Olympic Collectors (hereinafter IAOC), known in French as the Association Internationale des Collectionneurs Olympiques (hereinafter AICO) is hereby constituted as a non-profit association, within the meaning of art. 67ff. of the Swiss Civil Code.

1.2 IAOC is governed by the present Statutes and by Swiss law.

1.3 IAOC shall have its registered office in Lausanne, Switzerland.

1.4 IAOC shall be of unlimited duration.

## 2. BUSINESS YEAR

The business year of IAOC shall be from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January to the 31<sup>st</sup> of December.

## 3. PURPOSE

3.1 The purpose of IAOC is to foster quality Olympic philately, numismatics and memorabilia collecting related to the historical and cultural aspects of the Olympic movement.

3.2 To fulfil this purpose, IAOC shall, autonomously or in cooperation with other organisations:

3.2.1 promote learning and friendship between Olympic collectors the world over;

3.2.2 share knowledge on all types of Olympic collectibles for the benefit of all members;

3.2.3. facilitate access to Olympic reference material;

3.2.4 produce publications related to Olympic collecting, electronically and physically, as appropriate;

3.2.5 collaborate with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in promoting the Olympic ideal;

3.2.6 provide international focus for Olympic collectors worldwide;

3.2.7 encourage and collaborate with the organisers of Olympic collectibles fairs/exhibitions;

3.2.8 organise events in relation to Olympic collecting, as appropriate;

3.2.9 conduct a web site to act as a central point of information sharing on Olympic collectibles.

## 4. RESOURCES

4.1 The resources of IAOC are comprised of the membership fees paid by its members and other resources deriving from its activities.

4.2 IAOC shall be authorized to accept financial or other contributions from other organisations or individuals.

## 5. MEMBERS

5.1 IAOC is an association of national and international Olympic collecting clubs and membership shall be limited to the following:

- 5.1.1 Clubs with a minimum of five (5) individual members which cover collectors of philately, numismatics or memorabilia of Olympic sports are eligible for membership;
- 5.1.2 Clubs which cover only non-Olympic sports are not eligible for membership;
- 5.1.3 Olympic sports include, and shall be limited to, all sports listed in the Olympic Charter as of the date of a member's application and/or sports that were in the Programme of the Olympic Games.

5.2 Individuals are not eligible for membership. There are two classes of membership:

- 5.2.1 Applicants who have satisfied the requirements of membership eligibility, as set out by section 5.3, and who have been granted membership by the General Assembly become Probationary Members for a period of two years, with no voting rights for that period. Thereafter they become Full Members with voting rights.
- 5.2.2 The founding clubs who have obtained membership upon the signature of the constituent statutes are considered to be Full Members. Full members possess all voting rights without any waiting period.

5.3 In order to be eligible for membership, applicants must demonstrate that they have met the following criteria:

- 5.3.1 be a club within the terms of section 5.1;
- 5.3.2 have a formal legal identity/status in the territory in which its operations are based;
- 5.3.3 have a board of management of not less than three persons, elected by the members of the club;
- 5.3.4 provide a record of activity of at least one year in Olympic collecting;
- 5.3.5 provide a written statement of "no objection to membership" from the National Olympic Committee in the nation in which its operations are based;
- 5.3.6 provide a nominative list of persons authorized to act as the member's representative(s) at the IAOC General Assembly.

5.4 All applications for Probationary Membership must be submitted in writing to the Executive Board and shall include all information and documents allowing the Executive Board to verify that the applicant club or association satisfies all the criteria listed in section 5.3.

5.5 Membership to IAOC shall be decided by the General Assembly.

5.6 Membership may be terminated by the General Assembly for one of the following events:

- 5.6.1 dissolution of IAOC;
- 5.6.2 submission of a letter of resignation and in any event, resignation will only be accepted if all amounts due to IAOC have been paid;
- 5.6.3 non-payment of membership fees for two consecutive years;
- 5.6.4 failure to continue to meet one of the membership eligibility criteria listed in section 5.3;
- 5.6.5 by exclusion, upon proposal of the Executive Board, for any conduct which is prejudicial or detrimental to the purpose of IAOC; The Executive Board having first notified the member club of the reasons for this action and given it an opportunity to respond.

## **6. MEMBERSHIP FEES**

6.1 IAOC members must pay an annual membership fee, which shall be decided by the Executive Board and in particular, shall be based on the size of the membership of the club.

6.2 For the purpose of assessing the annual membership fee, the size of the membership will be the number of officially recorded members as of the end of the official year of the club in the year prior to the General Assembly. Member clubs will submit this information to the Executive Board, at the latest three months before the General Assembly.

6.3 Membership fees have to be paid at the latest on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June of each year.

6.4 The annual membership fee can only be changed pursuant to a decision of the General Assembly.

## **7. GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

7.1 The General Assembly is the supreme body of IAOC.

7.1 The responsibilities of the General Assembly are:

- 7.1.1 to approve the reports and financial statements for the year and vote on their adoption (a copy of which must have been distributed to members by the Executive Board, at least one month prior to the meeting);
- 7.1.2 to decide on any changes to the annual membership fees;
- 7.1.3 to approve the admission and expulsion of members;

- 7.1.4 to appoint and revoke the members of the Executive Board;
- 7.1.5 to supervise the activities of the Executive Board;
- 7.1.6 to decide on changes to the statutes;
- 7.1.7 to decide on the dissolution of the association;
- 7.1.8 to provide a forum for members to ask questions to the Executive Board and make suggestions, and such questions and/or suggestions must be lodged in writing with the Executive Board at least one month prior to the meeting.

7.2 The General Assembly shall be convened in an ordinary meeting once every two (2) years. It may also meet in extraordinary session whenever necessary, by decision of the Executive Board or at the request of one-fifth of the members.

7.3 The Executive Board shall send a written notice of the ordinary meeting to members at least three months in advance. The notice shall include details of the location, time and the proposed agenda of the meeting.

## 8. VOTING

8.1 Only Full Members, to the exclusion of Probationary Members, shall have the right to vote at the General Assembly.

8.2 Voting rights of member clubs will be based on the number of members in the club, according to the following scale:

5 to 50 members	1 vote
51 to 200 members	2 votes
201+ members	3 votes

8.3 The size of the club membership will be the number of officially recorded members of the club as notified by each member pursuant to section 6.2.

8.4 Voting at the General Assembly may be by physical attendance or by electronic mail where the member club has provided one week prior notice of its intention to do so. Votes submitted by electronic mail must be sent, for confidentiality reasons, to the IOC nominee on the Board and must be received no later than 12 hours prior to the vote at the General Assembly.

8.5 Decisions of the General Assembly shall be taken by a majority vote of the members. In case of deadlock, the President shall have the casting vote.

## 9. EXECUTIVE BOARD

9.1 The Executive Board is the body responsible for the management and administration of IAOC.

9.2 The responsibilities of the Executive Board are:

- 9.2.1 to ensure the observance of the Statutes and decisions of the General Assembly by all members;
- 9.2.2 to convene General Assemblies;
- 9.2.3 to verify that applicants fulfil membership criteria;
- 9.2.4 to propose membership exclusions to the General Assembly;
- 9.2.5 to take all measures to attain the goals of the association and in particular, to equally foster the interests of all three pillars of Olympic collecting (i.e. philately, numismatics and memorabilia).

9.3 The Executive Board represents IAOC. The President alone or the Treasurer with one Vice President are authorized to sign on behalf of IAOC in a legally binding manner.

9.4 The Executive Board will meet at the invitation of the President or at the request of at least two members of the Executive Board.

9.5 A quorum for an Executive Board meeting is three voting members, including the President. Board decisions are valid when approved by a majority of all voting members.

9.6 If the quorum for an Executive Board meeting is not met, a second meeting must be convened in the six weeks that follow. The decisions of this second Executive Board meeting shall be considered valid regardless of the number of members present.

9.7 The Executive Board may employ staff to perform administrative functions but such staff shall have no executive authority.

## 10. MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

10.1 The Executive Board shall comprise of five (5) members elected by the General Assembly: one President, two (2) Vice Presidents, one Secretary, one Treasurer, and one non-elected nominee of the IOC. The IOC nominee is a non-voting observer to the Board and is appointed at the discretion of the IOC.

10.2 To ensure regular rotation of Board membership, while maintaining continuity, at the inaugural elections for the Board, two positions will be elected for two years and three positions for four years.

10.3 The Executive Board members shall serve for a four year term following his/her election, such term ending on the day of the respective ordinary General Assembly. This term may be renewed.

10.4 Once elected, the Executive Board will elect its own office bearers and decide upon the distribution of work among its members.

## **11. ELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

11.1 To stand for election, a candidate must be nominated in writing by an IAOC member club.

11.2 Only one nomination may be made by each member club and no more than one person **nominated by** that member club may be elected for each election. Additionally, no more than two persons from any one nation may be members of the Executive Board at any one time.

11.3 Three months prior to a General Assembly, the Executive Board shall send a request for nominations to each IAOC member club, and clubs will have four weeks to lodge a nomination in writing. Nominations must include a CV of the candidate.

11.4 Within 14 days of the closing date for nominations, the Executive Board shall send all member clubs a list of the candidates with their respective CV's.

11.5 Voting will be conducted on a preferential basis, and members shall be required to rank all candidates in order of preference.

11.6 The election of an Executive Board member is conducted at the General Assembly and shall be approved by the majority of all voting members. Voting may be undertaken by physical attendance at the General Assembly, or by electronic mail sent to the IOC nominee on the Board, as provided in section 8.4.

## **12. AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES**

12.1 The Statutes can only be amended pursuant to a decision of the General Assembly. Any motion to change the Statutes must be notified in writing to the Executive Board and to all member clubs at least three months prior to a General Assembly.



12.2 Any amendment to the Statutes requires a quorum of not less than three quarters of the members and will only be valid if approved by a two-third majority of the voting members.

12.3 Voting may be by physical attendance at the General Assembly or by electronic mail as provided in section 8.4.

### **13. COLLABORATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (IOC) AND USE OF THE TERM “OLYMPIC”**

13.1 IAOC undertakes to work closely with the IOC and to respect the Olympic Charter and other regulations issued by the IOC.

13.2 IAOC acknowledges that the word “Olympic” is a trademark registered internationally in the name of the IOC. IAOC is by the IOC, and conditional upon the terms of a separate agreement with the IOC, authorized to use only the term “Olympic” (in French “Olympique”) solely in its corporate name and as a factual reference in its activities directly related to the fulfilment of its mission and provided that the word “Olympic” is not associated with any third party or any third party’s products or services.

### **14. DISSOLUTION**

14.1 The dissolution of the association requires a quorum of not less than three quarters of the members and will only be valid if approved by a two-third majority of the voting members.

14.2 Following the dissolution of the association, any remaining funds shall be distributed to former member clubs on an equal share basis.

### **15. LANGUAGE AND INTERPRETATION**

The official language of IAOC is French and the working language is English.

## **16. LEGAL JURISDICTION**

9.8 The legal domicile of IAOC shall be in Lausanne, Switzerland.

9.9 Any legal disputes will be determined under Swiss law and shall be submitted to the exclusive jurisdiction of the ordinary courts of the Canton of Vaud, Switzerland.

## **17. APPROVAL OF STATUTES**

These Statutes have been approved by the Constituent General Assembly on 22 May 2014 in Lausanne and took effect immediately following closure of such General Assembly.