



ISMM

International Society
for Mountain Medicine

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR MOUNTAIN MEDICINE
ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**

Revised October 2000 in Arica, Chile
Revised April 2002 in Barcelona, Spain
Revised August 2010 in Arequipa, Peru
Revised June 2021 in Bern, Switzerland

I. GENERAL

Article 1 Name, term, registered office and language

- a) An association as defined in article 60 et seq. of the Swiss Civil Code exists under the name “**International Society for Mountain Medicine**” (hereinafter “**ISMM**”) and is to be entered in the commercial register at the place of its registered office. The association has no political or religious affiliations.
- b) The term of the association is unlimited.
- c) The registered office is in the municipality of Bern (Switzerland).
- d) The official language of the association is German. For conferences congresses and administration English can also be used and - if translation is available - the language of the location where the event is held.

These articles of association are drawn up in both German and English. If there are differences of substance between the two versions, the German version of the articles of association is binding.

Article 2 Objectives and purpose

- a) The ISMM solely pursues medical, scientific and educational objectives and has the following purposes:
 - (1) To create an international organization of a scientific nature, bringing together physicians, paramedical professionals and organizations or companies interested in mountain medicine in its broadest aspects.
 - (2) To promote research, studies, discussions and publications on all medical aspects of mountains, mountain people and mountaineers.
 - (3) To compile scientific and applied documentation and promote cooperation with existing data centres.
 - (4) To provide information through electronic and printed publications for physicians and people who are interested in the scientific analysis of issues relating to mountain medicine.
 - (5) To promote, facilitate and organize work, information and educational meetings.
 - (6) To establish and offer "e-medicine" services as well as an emergency network in the field of mountain medicine.
 - (7) To periodically organize congresses with an international character.
 - (8) To build effective relationships with mountaineering organizations, the scientific world and public services.
- b) The association does not pursue any commercial purposes and is not for profit. Its bodies serve on a voluntary basis.

II. MEMBERS

Article 3 Members

- a) Physicians, mountain guides, health workers, mountain rescue personnel and students in these areas can become members of the ISMM.
- b) Membership applications are to be made in writing to the board, which makes the final decision on admission.

Article 4 Membership categories

There are five categories of membership:

- (1) **Ordinary members:** persons interested in mountain medicine. Anyone who is already a member of a national association or federation or an organization for mountain medicine receives a discount on the membership fee.
- (2) **Student members:** persons studying health sciences.
- (3) **Non-paying members:** persons whose membership fee is waived by the board at the request of the member or the president.
- (4) **Honorary members:** a title that is awarded by the general assembly on the proposal of the board to anyone who is making or has made important contributions to the ISMM or the field of mountain medicine.

Article 5 Termination of membership

Membership ends through cancellation, death or expulsion.

Article 6 Cancellation and expulsion

- a) It is possible to leave the association at the end of a membership year. The cancellation letter must be sent in writing to the board of directors at least four (4) weeks before the end of the membership year (date of postmark).
- b) A member can be expelled from the association at any time due to non-payment of the annual fee or for other valid reasons (esp. violations of the articles of association, infringements of the objectives and purposes of the association). The board of directors decides whether to expel a member, with no need to provide reasons. The member may appeal the decision to the general assembly.

Article 7 Membership fees

The annual fee is set by the general assembly. All members - except honorary members and members who are exempt - pay an annual fee. The board of directors can grant individual members free membership for one year, which can be extended annually upon request.

III. ORGANIZATION

Article 8 Bodies

The ISMM bodies are as follows:

- (1) the general assembly
- (2) the council (if one has been set up)
- (3) the board of directors
- (4) the working groups (if such are set up)
- (5) the auditors

Article 9 The general assembly

a) Composition:

The supreme body of the association is the general assembly, consisting of the association members defined in article 3.

b) Date of the ordinary general assembly:

The ordinary general assembly takes place every two years.

c) Convening and proposed agenda items:

Members are notified of the general assembly in writing or electronically with details of the agenda at least one month before the day of the assembly.

Agenda proposals for the general assembly should be addressed in writing to the board of directors (attn. of the president) no later than seven (7) days before the notice period for convening the assembly.

d) Extraordinary general assembly:

Extraordinary general assemblies can be convened by resolution of the board of directors or at the written or electronic request of at least one fifth of the members, specifying the agenda. The extraordinary assembly should take place within two (2) months after being convened.

e) Form of the general assembly:

The general assembly can be held in person, in writing or digitally via online conference room or live stream with chat function for discussion and voting. The board decides on the form of the general assembly, which is to be announced to members at the same time the assembly is convened. The board shall ensure that all members have the opportunity to participate in the assembly (esp. in any discussions) and to exercise their voting rights.

f) Responsibilities:

The general assembly has the following irrevocable duties and powers:

- (1) Elect the members of the board of directors and the auditors
- (2) Approve the minutes of the last general assembly

- (3) Approve the annual report of the board of directors
- (4) Accept the audit report and approve the annual financial statement
- (5) Discharge the board of directors
- (6) Set membership fees
- (7) Approve the annual budget
- (8) Decide on motions proposed by the board and members
- (9) Set up and recall the council
- (10) Set up and recall working groups
- (11) Decide on amendments to the articles of association
- (12) Decide on the dissolution of the association and the use of the liquidation proceeds

g) Decision-making capacity, quorum and minutes:

Each properly convened general assembly has a quorum regardless of the number of members present.

Members pass their resolutions - subject to other quorums determined by law or the articles of association - with a simple majority. In the event of a tie, the chair has the casting vote.

Resolutions on amendments to the articles of association and the dissolution of the association require the consent of two thirds (2/3) of the members present.

Resolutions are to be recorded in the minutes.

h) Voting:

Every active member is entitled to vote, according to article 4. Voting by proxy is not permitted.

Article 10 The council

a) Objectives:

The aim of the council is to increase the international character of the association, promote contacts at national level within the ISMM membership and work with other national associations, federations or organizations.

b) Council members:

If a council is set up by the general assembly, it is composed as follows:

- (1) A maximum of two people from the board
- (2) All national representatives

c) Council members from the board:

The maximum two council members from the association's board shall take on the role of president or vice-president and are appointed and recalled by the board.

d) National representatives (election and term):

Every country with at least ten (10) ordinary ISMM members is entitled to a seat on the council (so-called national representatives).

The national representatives are elected for a term of four (4) years by the ISMM members who are resident in the respective country. Re-election is possible. The elections are organized by the association's board and can be carried out in writing or electronically.

- e) Duties and responsibilities of national representatives:
National representatives are responsible for promoting the activities of the ISMM at national level in the country they represent, possibly in conjunction with other national associations, federations or organizations, and for representing the interests of their country in the council and the general assembly.
- f) Set-up and dissolution:
The general assembly decides on setting up and dissolving the council.
- g) Cancellation and expulsion:
Except at the end of the mandate, council membership is lost through death, recall, expulsion from the council or expulsion from the association. Expulsion from the council requires a two thirds (2/3) majority of council votes.
- h) Meetings:
The council meets with the board at least once every two years. It is possible to participate in person or by fax, post or email. Important decisions are made by secret ballot and with a simple majority. In the event of a tie, the president of the council has the casting vote.

Article 11 The Board of directors

- a) Composition:
The board consists of seven to seventeen members and is composed as follows:
 - (1) President
 - (2) Elected/future president (hereinafter "president-elect"; once elected)
 - (3) Former president (secretary general)
 - (4) Five vice-presidents
 - (5) Treasurer
 - (6) Editor of the magazine
 - (7) Deputy editor(s)
 - (8) Chair of the HAPE register
 - (9) Deputy member of the Medical Commission of the International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA)
 - (10) Deputy member of the Medical Commission of the International Commission for Alpine Rescue (ICAR)
 - (11) Deputy member of the Asian-Pacific Society for Mountain Medicine (APSM)
 - (12) Deputy Member of the Wilderness Medicine Society (WMS)
 - (13) President of the next upcoming congress (as soon as elected)

b) Representation:

The board should represent the different regions and continents of the members.

c) Elections and right to propose:

i. The president, the president-elect and the five vice-presidents are elected by the general assembly and anyone from the membership is eligible for election.

ii. The president cannot have two consecutive terms of office.

iii. The president-elect should be elected two years before taking office as president to prepare for the future role.

iv. The five vice-presidents are proposed to the general assembly by the board and may - if re-elected - hold two consecutive terms of office.

v. The treasurer, the editor and deputy editor(s) of the magazine are proposed to the general assembly by the board. Unrestricted re-election is possible.

vi. The medical commissions of the UIAA, ICAR and the boards of the APSMM and WMS propose for election to the general assembly those members who will represent them. Unrestricted re-election is possible.

vii. Members of the board of directors are elected for a term of four years, except for the president-elect and the president of the upcoming congresses.

d) Loss of board membership:

Board membership can be lost through death, resignation or expulsion, which must be unanimously decided by the other members of the board.

e) Vacancy:

In the event of a vacancy on the board, the board of directors decides whether an extraordinary general assembly should be convened in order to fill the seat in less time than provided for in the articles of association.

f) Meetings:

The board meets as often as deemed necessary for the good functioning of the association, but at least once a year. The entire board membership may request the president to convene a meeting, stating their reasons. The meeting is to be held within two months of the request. Important decisions are made - at the request of a board member - in a secret ballot and with a simple majority. In the event of a tie, the president has the casting vote.

Provided no board member requests personal advice, decisions by circular resolution (in writing or electronically) are valid. It is possible to participate in board meetings in person or by fax, post or electronically.

g) Duties of the board of directors:

The board manages the day-to-day business of the association and represents it externally. It issues regulations and may hire or appoint persons to achieve the association's objectives and pay them appropriate compensation. The board enjoys all powers not conferred on another body by law or these articles of association.

In accordance with regulations, the board can delegate the management of the association in whole or in part to one or more directors.

h) Representation and authority to sign:

The association is represented externally by the board of directors. The board determines the authorized signatories as well as the manner of signing.

Article 12 The Working groups

a) Objectives:

The association is divided into working groups according to focus of interest. These working groups are made up of experts from one or more specialist areas.

b) Management:

For each group, the members elect a secretary to be in charge. They are responsible for the group's activities and shall present these activities to the general assembly.

c) Term:

The term of working groups is determined by the general assembly and depends on how the interests of the group or the association develop. Unless a time limit is specified by the general assembly, the term of the working group is indefinite - until it is explicitly dissolved by the general assembly.

d) Set-up, duties, dissolution and composition:

The general assembly is in charge of setting up working groups, defining their duties and dissolving them. The members who make up a working group are determined by the general assembly. The members of a working group are volunteers.

Article 13 The Auditors

a) The general assembly elects two i persons as auditors for a period of three years; re-election is possible. The auditors may not be members of the board at the same time. A legal person (e.g. trust company, etc.) may also be designated as an auditor.

b) The auditors shall perform annual checks of the association's accounts and submit a report to the general assembly.

c) The annual report and the financial statement shall be sent or made accessible to all members at the latest when the ordinary general assembly is convened.

IV. FUNDING

Article 14 Composition

a) The association's funds consist of:

- (1) Membership fees
 - (2) Voluntary donations (gifts, bequests, etc.)
 - (3) Subsidies
 - (4) Income from events and the association's assets
- b) Accounts shall be kept in accordance with statutory provisions.
- c) The financial year is the calendar year.

V. DISSOLUTION

Article 15 Dissolution

- a) The dissolution of the association can only be decided by a general assembly specially convened for this purpose. At least three quarters (3/4) of members of the association must be present.
- b) If the required attendance quorum is not met, a second meeting is convened by registered letter to members with a notice period of at least 20 days. This second convened general assembly makes a decision, regardless of the number of members present.
- c) A majority of three quarters (3/4) of the votes present is necessary to decide on the dissolution.
- d) Upon dissolution of the association, its assets are transferred to another tax-exempt organization that pursues the same or a similar purpose. Distribution of the association's assets among its members is excluded.

Article 16 Positive balance

In the event of dissolution, a positive balance shall be paid to an institution with a similar purpose and determined by the dissolving assembly.

Adopted by consensus by the constituent assembly in Geneva on 6 December 1985.

Revisions approved by the general assembly in October 2000 in Arica

Revisions approved by the general assembly in April 2002 in Barcelona

Revisions approved by the general assembly in August 2010 in Arequipa

Revisions approved by the general assembly in June 2021 in Interlaken