

PREAMBLE

The International Organisation for the Study of the Endurance of Ropes - OIPEEC - is a non-profit-making association established following a decision of the participants to the International Colloquium on the Fatigue of Ropes (Turin, 7-10th September, 1961) who unanimously passed proposal for its foundation, and with the valuable encouragement and help of OITAF and RILEM.

The name of the organization has been modified and is now International Organisation for the Study of Ropes. The acronym has not been modified.

ARTICLE 1 - Aim of the Organisation

The Organisation intends to:

- a) initiate and promote all forms of research on ropes.
- b) collect and publicize, in collaboration with the persons concerned the results obtained, either with respect to the said researches or those carried out on the same subject but not initiated by the Organisation.
- c) to that end keep in touch as closely as possible with individuals and bodies interested in the study of ropes.
- d) organize and convene all forms of International meetings and Conferences on the same subject.

ARTICLE 2 - Registered Office - Legal Code applicable

The Registered Office of the Organisation is situated in France. The location of this office can be modified by a decision of the Management Committee.

The Organisation, having its Registered Office in France, is subject to French Law. For the application of these articles of association the French text takes precedence in all respects.

The place and date of meetings of the Organisation and of Conferences are decided by the Management Committee.

ARTICLE 3 - International Orientation of the Organisation Official Languages

The Organisation has an international orientation: its members may belong to any nationality. Its official languages are: English and French.

ARTICLE 4 - Different Categories of Membership

The members of the Organisation are either individuals or bodies represented by a person of their choice. The members are divided into ordinary members and honorary members.

ARTICLE 5 - Ordinary members

Ordinary members take part, by right, in the sessions of the General Assembly with the right to speak and vote, subject to being up to date with their subscription. The Organisation will supply to them all communications and publications as agreed by the Management Committee.

ARTICLE 6 - Honorary members

Honorary members are persons who have distinguished themselves by serving the Organisation's interests in their contribution to the work of the Organisation. Honorary members have all the rights of the ordinary members. Honorary members of the Organisation have the right to attend the Management Committee meetings. Their appointment is decided by the General Assembly on the proposition of the Management Committee.

The Organisation will supply to them, free of charge, all communications and publications.

ARTICLE 7 - Admission

Every request for admission implies unreserved acceptance of the present constitution.

ARTICLE 8 - Loss of the membership status

Loss of membership is established by resignation or by expulsion.

Resignation

Any member can resign at the end of the Financial year by giving three months notice. The subscription paid will not be refunded.

Any member whose dues remain unpaid after a period defined by the MC will be considered to have resigned.

Expulsion

In case of behaviour harmful to the Organisation, expulsion is declared provisionally by the Management Committee after hearing parties.

During their next upcoming meeting, the Management Committee will discuss such case and ratify by a 2/3 majority of the Management Committee members present. The result will be informed to the next General Assembly.

The subscription paid will not be refunded.

ARTICLE 9 - Operation of the Organisation

The Organisation acts through the following organs:

- The General Assembly
- The Management Committee
- The Administrative Secretariat
- The Treasury
- The Scientific and Refereeing Committee

ARTICLE 10 - The General Assembly

The General Assembly is composed of all the ordinary members or their proxies. It is sovereign and can decide on any question concerning the activity and operation of the Organisation.

The General Assembly is lawfully convened with full rights by the President of the Organisation in office in ordinary session at least once every two years; the delay between two General Assemblies must not exceed thirty months. If circumstances appear to justify it, the General Assembly may be convened at any time in extraordinary session by the President in office. The General Assembly is lawfully convened in extraordinary session if the request is made by at least one half of the ordinary members.

The convening notices for either ordinary or extraordinary sessions must be sent out at least sixty days before the date of the opening meeting.

If unable to attend any ordinary member may appoint a proxy of his choice.

Decisions are taken by a simple majority of the ordinary members present or their proxies.

During every ordinary session the General Assembly appoints the President of the Organisation by election.

It appoints two scrutineers.

It decides the numerical composition of the Management Committee, elects the members of the latter and the auditor; during every ordinary session it studies and discusses the scientific work of the Scientific Committee and of the workgroups.

Every person thus appointed by election carries out his functions until the following ordinary session of the General Assembly. Every person is eligible for re-election.

However, the President can be re-elected on only one occasion at the end of his mandate. The President and Vice-President must be chosen from among the ordinary members of the Organisation.

ARTICLE 11 - The Management Committee

The Management Committee looks after the general working of the Organisation between the ordinary sessions of the General Assembly. However, the General Assembly can, during an extraordinary session, remove it from office.

The Management Committee is composed of:

- the Chairman, who is the President of the Organisation
- a Vice-Chairman who is the Vice-President of the Organisation
- a Secretary and a Treasurer, both of whom can be chosen from outside the members to the Organisation and who, in such a case, will not have a vote in the Management Committee
- one to ten ordinary members in addition to the President and the Vice-President

Honorary members have the right to attend the Management Committee meetings. They do not have the right to vote.

The Management Committee may co-opt additional members who have no voting rights in the committee.

The Management Committee is convened and chaired by the President. If unable to attend he may delegate his powers to the Vice-President.

Its decisions are taken by a majority of the members present.

Decisions can only be made if more than 50 % of the voting members are present.

If voting results in a stalemate, the President has a casting vote.

ARTICLE 12 – Responsibilities of the President

The President is responsible for implementing the decisions of the General Assembly and of the Management Committee, and for ensuring that the Organisation is run efficiently and economically.

He chairs the General Assemblies and the Management Committee. If unable to attend, he may be replaced by the Vice-president or, else, by the oldest member or any member of the Management Committee specially appointed by it.

He authorises the expenditure of the Organisation.

He acts as the legal representative of the Organisation for all the acts of the civil life and is invested of all power for this purpose and as may be directed by the Management Committee.

The President may delegate some of his responsibilities. However, any representation of the Organisation in a legal context can only be assumed, in absence of the President, by a proxy acting according to a specific mandate of the Management Committee.

ARTICLE 13 - Secretary, Treasurer and Auditor

The Secretary is at the permanent disposal of the President for the execution of decisions taken by the General Assembly and the Management Committee and for sending out convening notices.

The Treasurer is entrusted with, and responsible for, all financial operations resulting from the Organisation's functions and for preparing the budgets.

He accounts for his financial management and submits statements of income, expenditure and current balance to the General Assembly for approval, at every ordinary session.

It is the function of the Auditor to audit the Treasurer's administration of the funds of the Organisation. The Auditor reports to the General Assembly when required and, in any case, at every ordinary session of the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 14 – The Editor

The Management Committee appoints an Editor.

The Editor's role is to collect information and papers related to the study of ropes to be published in the periodic Journal of the Organisation.

The Editor's role includes the supervision of the publication of International Conference proceedings.

The Editor periodically accounts for its activity to the Management Committee and reports to the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 15– The Scientific and Refereeing Committee

To ensure the scientific quality of papers, and to identify areas of interest and follow-up of rope research and rope related matters the Scientific and Refereeing committee is constituted.

The Scientific and Refereeing Committee is coordinated and managed by the Editor.

It is composed of a panel of referees and technical experts whose membership is determined by the Management Committee upon the Editor's proposal.

Committee members assist the Editor in identifying rope research taking place and rope issues that may be interesting to the rope community globally. The committee is tasked to propose plans/actions to highlight and share these with the rope community in general

For studying specific issues the Editor may propose the establishment of workgroups within the Organisation to the Management Committee.

ARTICLE 16 – Funds of the Organisation

16.1 The income of the Organisation is composed of:

- (a) Membership fees;
- (b) revenues for services
- (c) gifts.

The rate of subscription mentioned in paragraph (a) above is determined by the General Assembly. The price to be charged for publication and translation services, mentioned in (b), is determined by the Management Committee.

16.2 Expenditure

- (a) The Budget shall be presented by the Treasurer and approved by the Management Committee
- (b) In any one year, provided the assets of the Organisation exceed twice the Budget the President has the authority to decide on expenditure of up to 10% of the Budget.
- (c) In any one year, provided the assets of the Organisation exceed twice the Budget, the Management Committee has the authority to decide on expenditure of up to 30% of the Budget.

ARTICLE 17 - Modification of the Articles of Association

Any modification of the Constitution can be decided only in the General Assembly by a two-thirds majority of the ordinary members present or represented.

ARTICLE 18 - Dissolution of the Organisation

The dissolution of the Organisation can be decided only in the General Assembly by a two-thirds majority of the ordinary members present or represented.

The assets, if any, will be disposed of in accordance with the law in force. In no case can the assets be distributed amongst the members.



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