

# International Federation for Manual/Musculoskeletal Medicine

## Statutes

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<sup>1</sup>The Federation is to be known as the **International Federation for Manual/Musculoskeletal Medicine**, abbreviated as **FIMM**. Its registered office is CH-9008 ST.GALLEN, Switzerland, c/o Schweizerische Ärztegesellschaft für Manuelle Medizin SAMM, Kolumbanstrasse 2; it is subject to the Swiss Civil Code of December 10<sup>th</sup>, 1907 granting legal status to societies.

### Article 1 Name and Registration

<sup>1</sup>The aims of the Federation are

- to develop an active, internationally recognized umbrella organization,
- to attract national societies and policy makers worldwide, whose main function is gathering and disseminating knowledge and expertise.
- to proactively advance integration of Manual/Musculoskeletal Medicine into health care.

### Article 2 Aims of the Federation

<sup>2</sup>The Federation strives to be **The International Standard** in the world for Manual/Musculoskeletal Medicine.

<sup>1</sup>The Federation has

1. Ordinary Members
2. Observatory Members
3. Honorary Members

### Article 3 Membership

#### <sup>2</sup> **1. Ordinary Members:**

<sup>2.1</sup>Organisations of Manual Medicine Physicians are entitled to become ordinary members of the Federation.

<sup>2.2</sup>The General Assembly will decide upon ordinary membership with a simple majority.

<sup>2.3</sup>A transitional period applies to this article until 2021 during which any current Ordinary Member has a right to veto to a new ordinary membership from the same country.

#### <sup>3</sup> **2. Observatory Members:**

<sup>3.1</sup>The General Assembly may allow other organizations in Manual Medicine or related fields to become Observatory Members by simple majority following a proposal of the Executive Board.

<sup>3.2</sup>Their representatives may take part but do not have a right to vote at the General Assembly and are not eligible for the membership of the Executive Board of the Federation.

**4.3. Honorary Members:**

4.1 The General Assembly may, following a proposal of the Executive Board, appoint persons of extraordinary standing in the field as Honorary Members.

4.2 At the General Assembly, they will have an advisory role, but not the right to vote.

4.3 Honorary members do not pay a membership fee.

**Article 4  
Duties of the Members**

1 It is incumbent upon the members to promote the aims of the Federation as far as it lies in their power. They must undertake to view Manual Medicine as part of the healing art of physicians and must refrain from everything that could be detrimental to its authority.

**Article 5  
End of Membership**

1 Membership may be terminated by resignation or by exclusion, and in the case of individuals also by their death. A member ceasing to belong to the Federation has no right to its assets or a part of it.

2 Resignation from the Federation is possible at the end of a calendar year. Notice must be given to the Executive Board three months in advance.

3 Exclusion from the Federation may take place if the member

- substantially disobeys its duties according to Article 4,
- has acted against the aims and interests of the Federation or has damaged its authority,
- has failed to pay a membership fee for two consecutive years to the Federation.

4 The General Assembly will decide about exclusion with a majority of two-thirds following a proposal of the Executive Board. In serious cases, the Executive Board may immediately suspend the membership until the next General Assembly.

5 The member being aware of an exclusion must be invited to the General Assembly to present his defence.

**Article 6  
Organisation of the  
Federation**

1.1 The component parts of the Federation are

- a) the General Assembly
- b) the Executive Board
- c) the Education Board
- d) the Health Policy Board

1.2 The Federation may establish those regional organizations and structures needed to enhance its performance.

**Article 7**  
**The Executive Board**

<sup>1</sup> The Executive Board consists of

- the President
- the President elect (final two years)
- the Secretary-General
- the Communication officer
- the Treasurer
- the Education Director
- the Health Policy Director
- the Science Director
- one Member at large

<sup>2</sup> The Vice-Presidency and the Science Liaison Officer is taken by one of the listed executives except by the President.

<sup>3</sup> The President elect will be voted in two years before the end of the 4-year cycle as a member of the Executive Board. He or she may be confirmed by the General Assembly as the President at the end of the 4-year cycle.

<sup>4</sup> The Executive Board administrates the Federation. The President represents the Federation in all other formal activities. He has the right to sign for the Federation together with another member of the Executive Board. In legal actions two members of the Executive Board must represent the Federation.

<sup>5</sup> The Executive Board reports annually to the General Assembly about the previous financial year.

<sup>6</sup> The Executive Board shall meet whenever necessary, but at least once a year at the discretion of the President or his substitute. The announcement of the meeting of the Executive Board, including the agenda, has to be made 4 weeks in advance.

<sup>7</sup> Decisions of the Executive Board are made by simple majority; in case of equal division of the votes, the President shall have the casting vote. The decisions of the Executive Board must be recorded.

<sup>8</sup> Eligible for the Executive Board are members of organisations, which are Ordinary Members of FIMM. Members of the Executive Board shall be elected by the General Assembly for a period of four years. They may be revoked by the General Assembly with a majority of two-thirds. They fulfil their office on a honorary basis.

<sup>9</sup> The Vice-President shall not be of the same nationality as the President. When the President is not available, he shall be substituted by the Vice-President.

<sup>10</sup> The members of the Executive Board are re-eligible for the same office, the President only after a break of four years.

<sup>11</sup> Decisions of the Executive Board shall be valid if at least two thirds of its members are present.

<sup>12</sup> The Education Board reports regularly to the Executive Board. The members of the Education Board are appointed by the Education Director and confirmed by the General Assembly.

<sup>13</sup> The Health Policy Board reports regularly to the Executive Board. The members of the Health Policy Board are appointed by the Health Policy Director and confirmed by the General Assembly.

**Article 8**  
**The General Assembly**

1.1 The General Assembly consists of one delegate of each Ordinary Member.

1.2 The right to vote is limited to *Fractions* consisting of one or several Ordinary Members reaching together a total of at least 25 qualified physicians.

1.3 Qualified physicians are physicians or surgeons qualified according to the national regulations of the country of their member society. After 2023 qualified physicians must fulfil the 300 hours of training in Manual/Musculoskeletal Medicine criteria of the FIMM Guidelines for Education and Safety.

1.4 The constitution of a given fraction is not restricted except by Art. 8.1.2.

1.5 Ordinary Members may not change Fractions during a General Assembly.

1.6 According to the numbers of qualified physicians represented, the Fractions have the following numbers of votes:

- Fractions of 25 - 99 have 1 vote,
- Fractions of 100 - 1'999 have 2 votes,
- Fractions of 2'000 or more have 3 votes.

1.7 The right to vote is limited to Fractions made up of Ordinary Members who have paid their membership fee for the running year.

1.8 Honorary Members have an advisory role only.

1.9 One additional delegate of each Observatory Member is also admitted, but without the right to vote. Attendance by additional persons may be granted by permission of the President.

<sup>2</sup> The General Assembly shall meet once a year on the invitation of and under the chairmanship of the President or his substitute. On demand of one half of the Ordinary Members, an extraordinary General Assembly shall be convened. Invitations for the General Assembly, including the Agenda, must be prepared two months in advance. The Agenda may be changed or subjects may be added only with unanimous resolution of the General Assembly.

<sup>3</sup> Decisions of the General Assembly shall be valid if one quarter of the Ordinary Members are represented. In the event of failure to meet this criterion at once, a new General Assembly has to be convened within a period of four weeks; the subsequent General Assembly shall be valid whatever the circumstances.

<sup>4</sup> The General Assembly shall

- a) receive and endorse the annual report of the Executive Board for the previous financial year,
- b) decide about the budget of the coming year,
- c) elect the members of the Executive Board,
- d) determine the membership fee,
- e) decide about admission of new members,
- f) decide about exclusion of members,
- g) decide about the nomination of Honorary Members,
- h) decide about revocation of members of the Executive Board,
- i) decide about amendments to the Statutes,
- j) decide about dissolution of the Federation.

<sup>5</sup> **Decisions** about subjects a) to e) need a simple majority; decisions about subjects f) to j) need a majority of two-thirds of the General Assembly. Every decision must be recorded.

<sup>6</sup> **Recommendations** are not binding and may be made by any member or board during the General Assembly.

<sup>7</sup> **Amendments** to the statutes need the approval of a majority of two-thirds of the General Assembly to become valid.

<sup>8</sup> Following consultations between the General Assembly and the Executive Board, the General Assembly may appoint committees for its support. Details shall be registered in Regulations.

<sup>1</sup> The financial year of the Federation shall be the calendar year.

## **Article 9 Budget and Accounts**

<sup>2</sup> The Federation shall be financed by membership fees. Expenses shall be allowable from the income and assets only to fulfil the aims of the Federation as listed in Article 2.

<sup>3</sup> Income, expenditure and assets of the Federation shall be recorded in the accounts in a commercial manner. The Executive Board shall present the annual balance, which should be approved by an auditor, to the General Assembly of the following year as part of its annual report.

<sup>1</sup> The official languages of the Federation shall be English, French and German.

## **Article 10 Languages and Announcements**

<sup>1</sup> The General Assembly shall require a majority of two-thirds for dissolution of the Federation. At the same time it has to decide which public interest shall receive the remaining assets of the Federation after deduction of all liabilities.

## **Article 11 Dissolution of the Federation**

<sup>1</sup> These Statutes replace the Statutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2016; they shall be valid with the 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2019.

## **Article 12 Final Regulations**

## Statutes

<sup>2</sup> Invalidity of single items of the Statutes do not cause invalidity of the complete Statutes.

<sup>3</sup> Any matter not provided for by these Statutes shall be dealt with according to the provisions contained in the Swiss Civil Code of December 10<sup>th</sup>, 1907 granting legal status to societies.

April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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