



# **International Slackline Association**

## *ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION*

Adopted by the General Assembly, 25 August 2016

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# I. LEGAL FORM OF THE ASSOCIATION

## Article 1

1. The "International Slackline Association" (hereinafter ISA), founded in Bern, Switzerland on 30 August, 2015, is the international association of slacklining organisations. It functions in accordance with these Articles of Association and is governed by the provisions of the Swiss Civil Code (Art. 60 and subsequent Articles).
2. These Articles are supplemented by the Model and may be referred to in these Articles.

# II. SEAT

## Article 2

1. The seat of the ISA is in Bern, Switzerland.
2. The headquarters and the secretariat of the ISA may be located in a country other than Switzerland, upon the decision of both, the Executive Board and Advisory Board.

# III. PURPOSES AND TASKS

## Article 3

### *The ISA will:*

1. Consolidate and improve its position as the worldwide representative of all slackline associations, without interfering in the internal matters of its member associations, independently of any political, governmental, philosophical or denominational influence and without financial gain;
2. Promote, develop and regulate international activities and participate actively in international slacklining movements;
3. Assist member federations with slackline issues; it seeks solutions to all fundamental problems of international importance;
4. Serve as a permanent forum for member associations and seek durable relations between its associated member associations;
5. Promote and develop slacklining and slackline sports and activities with specific high human and social values, especially for youth and young adults, through education and training;
6. Urge its member associations to extend to the members of other member associations the benefits granted to their own members according to the principle of reciprocity;
7. Encourage the development of best practice in slacklining and other slackline activities;
8. Maintain and make available a database of slackline-related incidents and accidents.
9. Specify minimum safety requirements for slackline equipment and rigging practices;
10. Promote responsible access and conservation of slackline areas, and promote awareness of, and respect

- for, the environment among all users of slackline terrain;
11. Liaise with other relevant organisations;
  12. Keep and make available achievement records, and define qualifications of records thereof;
  13. Aid in the development and distribution of slackline knowledge.

## IV. OPERATING PRINCIPLES

### Article 4

1. The ISA encourages, develops and supports the practice of all slacklining and slackline sports in the international world wide field. It represents slackline to all international organisations.
2. The ISA governs and develops slackline sports which are recognised by the General Assembly in the full respect of other international association's rights.
3. The ISA supports regional and/or continental organisations upon request of any such organisations, but within the limits of the Articles of Association and the Model.
4. The ISA will concentrate its policies and activities at a global level. All matters which could be handled by member associations should be done by those.
5. The ISA shall not undertake any activity which is more effectively done by its member associations.
6. The ISA will promote a drug free community and monitor community behavior with respect to doping.
7. Any form of discrimination with regard to a country, region or a person on grounds of race, religion, politics, gender or otherwise is incompatible with ISA.

## V. MEMBERS

### Article 5

1. The ISA has the following members:
  - a. **Active members** any slackline association of national importance and with significant membership which is inclusive of all forms of slacklining can become a member with voting rights. For each country, only one slackline association has the right of vote.
  - b. **Associate members** further slackline associations of a country may become members without voting rights expect on the budget provided they are of national or relevant regional importance. A decision on the admission of such associations will only be made after consultation with the member association with the voting rights of the relevant country and having due regard to that association's comments. If the applying organisation is also a member or a section of a current ISA member association with voting rights (Active member), the approval of the Active member is mandatory for the admission as an associate member.
  - c. **Honorary members:** persons of particular merit to the ISA, to international slacklining or to preservation of the slackline environment may be elected as honorary members. They have no right to vote.
  - d. **Observer members:** national, multinational, transregional or other slackline organisations and institutions that are engaged in the study of slacklines, slackline protection or similar activities may be admitted as observer members without the right to vote.
  - e. **External partner:** enterprises specialising in slackline related fields

2. Statutes and activities of all member associations should correspond to the Articles of Association of the ISA.
3. The Model may state further criteria for admission to membership.

## **Article 6**

### ***Obligations of Members***

The members of the ISA have the following obligations:

1. All member associations and other members shall comply with these Articles of Association and are obliged to comply with appropriate resolutions adopted by the ISA bodies.
2. The members agree to respect their mutual autonomy and in no way to harm the development of the other members. This obligation has to be strictly observed by foreign sections as well as by their parent association. In particular, the members cannot found sections abroad without the expressed permission of the national association representing the concerned country within the ISA.
3. All member associations shall pay their membership fees in full within the period fixed for payment.
4. All member associations shall report annually to the ISA Office, with appropriate documentation such as an annual report, the number of their individual members as of the end of the prior calendar year. At request of the Treasurer, membership statistics must be provided in English. Individual members are counted as those physical persons who are registered members of the member association and/or its associated clubs or associations.
5. If any member association, despite written reminder, does not pay its annual fees, its number of members will be determined at the reasonable discretion of the Advisory Board.

## **VI. BODIES**

### **Article 7**

The ISA functions through the following bodies, each with separately defined powers and duties:

1. General Assembly
2. Advisory Board
3. Executive Board
4. Auditors
5. Court
6. Commissions

## **VII. GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **Article 8**

1. The General Assembly is the supreme body of the ISA. It convenes every year. Organisation of the General Assembly shall be the responsibility of the Executive Board.
2. Every member association is entitled to be represented at the General Assembly.

3. Notice calling a General Assembly must be sent to all member associations at least two months prior to the date set for that General Assembly.
4. The Executive Board must call an extraordinary General Assembly on request of the Advisory Board or on written application of one-fifth of the member associations entitled to vote. Such a General Assembly must be convened within two months of the date a valid request has been made and the full agenda must be sent not later than one month before the date set. Any such General Assembly will be located and organised by the Executive Board.

## Article 9

### ***Powers of the General Assembly***

The General Assembly has the following duties and powers:

1. to elect and dismiss the President, the members of the Executive Board, the members of the Advisory Board and the Auditors;
2. to fix membership and admission fees;
3. to decide on admission and expulsion of members on the recommendation of the Advisory Board, neither such decision requiring justification;
4. to approve of plans for future activities;
5. to elect Honorary Members. To be adopted, such a proposal must receive the approval of 75% of the vote cast;
6. to adopt and amend the Articles of Association and to dissolve the ISA, such decisions needing a quorum and majority as described in Article 10;
7. to review and amend guidelines for the model;
8. to adopt and amend Regulations;
9. to receive, discuss and approve the President's report;
10. to review and approve the annual accounts after having heard the report of the auditors and to give discharge to the Advisory Board;
11. to approve the budget;
12. to decide which sports and activities the ISA recognises and governs;
13. to make a final decision on the acceptance of the text of any declaration to be published in the name of the ISA;
14. to make a final decision about all questions presented to it by other bodies of the ISA;
15. to decide all matters which no other body is competent to decide;
16. to approve the creation and dissolution of Commissions upon recommendation of the Advisory Board.

## Article 10

### ***Voting Rights***

1. At any General Assembly, each member association shall be represented by one delegate, who may be assisted by one or two advisors.
2. **Active Members**
  - a. Active Members can vote on all subjects.
  - b. The votes of an Active Member, as represented through the delegate, is determined by the rules of the *vote and fee determination table*.
  - c. The number of votes one Active Member can accumulate is limited to one third of all castable votes.

Vote and Fee Determination Table

Number of members		Number of Votes	Fee Multiplier
minimum	maximum		
0	500	1	1,00
501	1.000	2	2,00
1.001	2.000	3	4,00
2.001	4.000	4	8,00
4.001	8.000	5	16,00
8.001	16.000	6	32,00
16.001	32.000	7	64,00

### 3. Associate Members

- a. Associate Members only have the right to vote on the budget.
  - b. Every delegate of an Associate Member can only cast one vote.
  - c. The absolute voting power of all Associate Members can only amount to maximum of one third of all castable votes.
4. If several member associations of the same nation are members of the ISA, the member association entitled to vote is designated as follows:
    - a. by decision taken at the time of admission by the General Assembly;
    - b. if no such decision was taken, the right to vote is held by the member association that first joined the ISA,
    - c. by voluntary agreement between the member associations in question, the right to vote may be attributed deviating from a) or b) above. Such agreement is to be communicated in writing to the President prior to the General Assembly. A review of national membership and entitlement to vote can be decided by the General Assembly with a qualified majority.
  5. A member association which has not paid its dues in full prior to the General Assembly is not entitled to exercise any vote.
  6. Amendments of these Articles of Association may only be adopted if a qualified quorum of two thirds of all castable votes, coming from two thirds of all member countries is reached.
  7. Dissolution of the ISA may only be considered if such an item is fully described in the agenda circulated prior to the General Assembly and if at least half of the member associations with voting rights are present or represented. To be adopted the qualified quorum must be reached.
  8. For all other decisions of the General Assembly there is no quorum. Decisions are taken by a majority of votes cast.
  9. Voting at the General Assembly is conducted by show of hands.
  10. The vote for the budget is either acceptance or rejection.
  11. Decisions of the General Assembly may also be made by written or electronic correspondence, in accordance with the Model as approved by the General Assembly.
  12. Any member association may contest resolutions of the General Assembly that violate the law, these Articles of Association or the Model, and to which it has not consented, within one month of receiving notice there of, by appeal to the Court at the seat of the ISA. For member associations not present or represented at the General Assembly, the sending of the official ISA Bulletin containing the minutes of the General Assembly to the last known address of the member association shall constitute the start of the period of one month mentioned above.

## Article 11

### *Agenda and the Right to Introduce Proposals*

1. Items for inclusion on the agenda of any General Assembly may be presented by:
  - a. any member association;

- b. the Advisory Board;
  - c. the Executive Board;
  - d. the Auditors, within the bounds of their competence;
  - e. any President of a ISA Commission within the bounds of his or her competence
2. Any such item shall be submitted to the ISA Office at least eight weeks before the General Assembly.
3. The full agenda shall be sent to the individual member associations at least four weeks before the General Assembly.
4. Upon 30% vote of the General Assembly, and in cast in accordance to Article 10, items may be added to the agenda of the General Assembly meeting. Additional items shall be considered at the end of the agenda.

## VIII. THE ADVISORY BOARD

### Article 12

The Advisory Board shall consist of a minimum of the following three officers:

1. Chairperson of the Advisory Board
2. Vice-Chairperson of the Advisory Board
3. General Secretary of the Advisory Board

The Advisory Board may also include by majority vote of the General Assembly any of the following positions:

1. Treasurer
2. one representative of each Commission
3. one representative from each continent (North America, Central and South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, Oceania)
4. three to five additional representatives

### Article 13

1. Candidates standing for election to any position in the Advisory Board shall be nominated by the member association of which he or she is a member.
2. Members of the Advisory Board may not simultaneously hold a position on the Executive Board.
3. The members of the Advisory Board are personally elected by the General Assembly for a term of two years.
4. If any person so elected fails to attend two consecutive meetings, the General Assembly can declare his or her seat vacant.

### Article 14

The Advisory Board is responsible for making recommendations to the Executive Board and the General Assembly. The role of the Advisory Board shall be conducted as follows:

1. to make recommendations about:
  - a. the long-term strategies of the ISA;
  - b. amendments to these Articles of Association to be decided by the General Assembly;
  - c. the admission and expulsion of member associations;
2. to recommend the creation, structure, and dissolution and the tasks of Commissions;

3. to elect a President and Vice President of each Commission upon recommendation of the Commission itself;
4. to recommend any proposed changes to these Articles of Association;
5. to make recommendations on the terms and conditions of contracts to be concluded with third parties
6. to make recommendations on membership issues between General Assemblies
7. to recommend the official means of information of the ISA.
8. to monitor the activities of the Executive Board

## **Article 15**

The Advisory Board will meet at least twice a year, and must meet as needed for business. Meetings may be over conference call and other real time communication methods.

## **Article 16**

Every member of the Advisory Board has one vote. All decisions of the Advisory Board are taken by majority of the members present, and no voting rights may be exercised by proxy. The President has the casting vote. The quorum of the Advisory Board consists of a majority of its members.

# **IX. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

## **Article 17**

1. The Executive Board shall consist of the following members, designated as follows:
  - a. President
  - b. Vice-President
  - c. Treasurer
  - d. The Executive Board may also include, by vote of the General Assembly, any of the following positions:
  - e. General Secretary
  - f. up to three other persons elected by the General Assembly
2. The Executive Board is responsible for implementing all the policy directives and decisions made by the General Assembly. The specific duties and responsibilities of all members of the Executive Board will be assigned by the Executive Board internally and will be stated in the Model.
3. The members of the Executive Board are personally elected by the General Assembly for a term of two years.
4. All statements and contracts which bind the ISA must be signed by the President and one other member of the Executive Board. In case of absence, the President may delegate to another member of the Executive Board. The Executive Board can determine other persons with specific authorisation to sign and regulate the signatory power.
5. The Executive Board is responsible for the functioning of the administrative office of the ISA, and appointing and removing staff employed.
6. to decide on membership issues between General Assemblies
7. to decide the official means of information of the ISA.

## **Article 18**

1. The Executive Board meets as often as business requires. Decisions are taken by a simple majority, and the President shall have a casting vote in case of a tie.
2. The Executive Board may take decisions by correspondence and/or by any other means of communication. To be valid, this correspondence must include at least three members.

## **X. THE AUDITORS**

### **Article 19**

The General Assembly shall appoint two individual auditors and one substitute for a period of one year. The auditors and the substitute are eligible for reappointment. They shall audit the accounts, report in writing to the General Assembly and make an application to give discharge to the Treasurer and the Advisory Board.

## **XI. THE COURT**

### **Article 20**

1. The ISA court shall be assigned ad hoc, where each party may choose a judge, who then choose a third judge.
2. The ISA Court decides its own regulations about:
  - a. conflicts of competence and other possible disputes between the ISA, ISA Members and bodies;
  - b. disputes between ISA member associations.

## **XII. COMMISSIONS**

### **Article 21**

1. The Executive Board may appoint Commissions for special tasks or to serve in fields requiring specific expertise.
2. The Commissions have both an advisory function to the Executive Board and a duty to perform the tasks assigned to them. Every Commission shall submit annually, through the ISA Office, a report describing its activities in the previous year and its program for the current year. The deadline for submitting such reports shall be set by the Executive Board. Every Commission shall also submit its accounts and budget in a manner to be prescribed by the Treasurer.
3. Members of all Commissions shall serve without compensation for renewable terms of two years. Every member association has the right to propose nominees. The names of all nominees shall be submitted to the Advisory Board and the composition of the Commission is reviewed annually by the Advisory Board.

4. All members of all Commissions shall have one vote in their Commission meeting.
5. All Commissions shall organize their own work. Each Commission will recommend to the Advisory Board the President and the Vice President to be appointed to that Commission.
6. Members of the Advisory Board may take part in the work of the Commissions, as permanent liaison officers, with no voting rights.

## **XIII. MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Article 22 - Voluntary Functions**

1. The activities of all bodies or Commissions of the ISA are conducted without compensation to the individuals who serve thereon, unless authorised otherwise in the Article of Association, the Model or by vote of the General Assembly.
2. The expenses of all those who serve on any body or Commission of the ISA with the exception of those of the members of the Executive Board shall be borne by the member association that the individual represents, unless authorised otherwise by the Model or specific vote of the General Assembly.

### **Article 23 - Minutes**

1. Accurate minutes shall be kept of all meetings of all ISA bodies and Commissions. For any meeting of each such body or Commission a minute-keeper, who does not need to be a member of that body, shall be designated. Upon their approval, the presiding member of that body and the minute-keeper shall sign all such minutes, and a copy shall be made available to every member of the relevant body and the ISA Office (for the Advisory Board).
2. The minutes of the General Assemblies shall be published on the ISA website.

### **Article 24 - Financial**

1. All planned ISA revenues and expenditures shall be reconciled in the annual budget and all ISA bodies and Commissions shall be obliged to conform to the budget approved by the General Assembly.
2. All dues receivable from the member associations must be paid in full by the end of April of each calendar year.
3. The financial year of the ISA shall be the calendar year.

### **Article 25 - Withdrawal of Members**

1. Any member association wishing to terminate its membership at the end of a year must inform the ISA Office in writing before the first of August of that year. Fees for the current year remain payable in full.
2. Member associations which, despite warning, act in a manner disruptive of, or contrary to, these Articles of Association or to the harmony and best interests of the ISA, will be expelled by vote of the General Assembly on recommendation of the Advisory Board. In addition, member associations which have not complied with their obligation to pay dues may be expelled by resolution of the General Assembly.

## Article 26 - Liability

The ISA is only liable for obligations of the association itself. The personal liability of every member for obligations of the ISA is excluded.

## Article 27 - Dissolution

In case of the dissolution of the ISA, all its assets shall be liquidated and the balance, after payment of all debts, shall be transferred to an institution with its legal seat in Switzerland and with a same or comparable public or nonprofit-making purpose. A distribution of the assets among the member associations is excluded.

## Article 28 - Language

1. The official language for the ISA is English.
2. Delegates in the General Assembly may speak in their own language, provided they arrange, at their own cost, for their speeches to be translated into English.

## Article 29 - Publications

1. The ISA website is the official means of information of the ISA.
2. Communications within and between the different bodies of ISA and with the members may be conducted by electronic means, provided they are reliable and effective.

## Article 30 - Model

1. The Model may further supplement these Articles of Association and direct the functions of the ISA and its boards.
2. The Executive and Advisory boards may propose an amendment or change to the model by a simple majority vote. The amendment is adopted by a simple majority vote of the other board.

## Article 31 - Enactment

*These Articles of Association and their complementary Model will come into effect on 25 August, 2016.*

*Adopted by the General Assembly on 25 August, 2016.*

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Thomas Buckingham  
President and Delegate of Swiss-Slackline

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