



Statutes of the Science Olympiad

Version of 02 July 2022

I. Name, registered office, and purpose

Art. 1 Name

¹ Under the name "Science Olympiad" (WO) exists an association in the sense of Art. 60ff of the Swiss Civil Code.

² The name of the association translates as "Olimpiadi della scienza" (OS) or "Olympiades de la science" (OS) or "Wissenschafts-Olympiade" (WO).

³ Until 13 September 2018 the Science Olympiad conducted its business under the names "Verband Schweizer Wissenschafts-Olympiaden" (VSWO), "Associazione Olimpiadi Scientifiche Svizzere" (AOSS) and "Association des Olympiades Scientifiques Suisses" (AOSS) respectively.

Art. 2 Registered office

The registered office and place of jurisdiction of the Science Olympiad is Bern.

Art. 3 Aim

¹ The Science Olympiad is politically and denominationally neutral and not for profit.

² The aim of the Science Olympiad is to support all members in organising and conducting Swiss Science Olympiads and in participating in international Science Olympiads.

³ The mission of the Science Olympiad defines its strategic objectives. These serve to fulfil the above-mentioned aim.

II. Members

Art. 4 Full members

¹ Associations and organisations that organise Switzerland's participation in international Science Olympiads can become full members of the Science Olympiad.

² Membership begins with admission to the Science Olympiad and ends with resignation or expulsion from the Science Olympiad.

Art. 5 Associate members

¹ Associations and organisations that organise Switzerland's participation in International Science Olympiads can become associate members of the Science Olympiad.

² Associate members have an association contract that regulates the services between the Science Olympiad and this member. The scope of services described in the association contract should be more restricted than that for full members.

³ The contract of association is valid for one year and can be tacitly renewed for a further year if it is not terminated by one of the parties 3 months before its expiration.

⁴ Associate membership begins and ends according to the duration of the contract.

Art. 6 Admission

¹ Associations or organisations wishing to become members of the Science Olympiad shall apply for membership in writing and submit it to the Board of Directors.

² The Board will consider the application and make a recommendation to the General Assembly.

³ Members are admitted by the General Assembly. Admission to the Science Olympiad takes place after the acceptance of the application by a two-thirds majority vote of the General Assembly.

⁴ As a rule, new members are admitted as associate members. The General Assembly may decide on exceptions.

Art. 7 Exit

Resignation from the association is possible at any time. Resignations must be submitted to the Board of Directors in writing.

Art. 8 Exclusion

¹ The Board of Directors may expel a member from the Association by a two-thirds majority of those entitled to vote.

² Exclusion is not possible if a full member organises Switzerland's participation in an international Science Olympiad and participates with a team.

III. Organisation

Art. 9 Institutions

The Science Olympiad has the following institutions:

- a) General Assembly
- b) Board of Directors
- c) Auditors
- d) Secretariat

Art. 10 Financial year

The financial year begins on October 1st of each calendar year.

a) General Assembly

Art. 11 Tasks and competences

¹ The supreme body of the Association is the General Assembly. It consists of the delegates of the full members.

² The General Assembly has the following duties:

- a) Election of the Board of Directors
- b) Election of the Auditors
- c) Acceptance and approval of the annual financial statements, the Auditors' report, and the budget
- d) Handling appeals of non-admitted or excluded members
- e) Amending the Statutes of the Association
- f) Dissolving the Association or approving a merger of the Association

³ The General Assembly may delegate tasks to the Board or the Secretariat and may withdraw tasks from the Board or the Secretariat at any time.

⁴ The General Assembly can be held digitally, by telephone or video conference, as well as physically at an on-site meeting.

Art. 12 Ordinary General Assembly

At least two ordinary General Assemblies are held in each financial year.

Art. 13 Extraordinary General Assembly

Extraordinary General Assemblies are convened following the notice of the motions

- a) at the request of the Board of Directors or
- b) upon the written request of a full member.

Art. 14 Convocation

¹ All members shall be invited to the General Assembly in writing or by e-mail. The invitation shall be sent at least 28 days before the date of the meeting. An agenda shall be enclosed with the invitation.

² The Board of Directors shall be responsible for convening the General Assembly and for determining the agenda.

Art. 15 Conduct

The President shall preside at the General Assembly. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for keeping a record of the proceedings.

Art. 16 Quorum

Any duly convened meeting of the Association constitutes a quorum if at least half of all full members are represented.

Art. 17 Passing of resolutions

¹ Each full member has one vote at the General Assembly, all other participants shall not have the right to vote. Representation by another full member is not possible.

² Resolutions shall be passed by a relative majority of the valid votes cast. In the event of a tie, the motion shall be deemed rejected. Upon request, a resolution shall be passed by secret ballot.

³ The General Assembly may pass resolutions by circular letter (electronic or postal). Resolutions shall be passed if most of all full members - represented by the presidents or their proxies - agree in

writing to the resolution or reject it and no full member requests the convening of an extraordinary meeting within two weeks of the request.

Art. 18 Request for appeal

¹ The secretariat may submit a single appeal against a decision taken.

² The Board of Directors must put the subject of the appeal on the agenda for its next meeting. It will re-evaluate it with the Secretariat and decide whether it should be re-voted at the next meeting of the Association.

³ The Board of Directors may take provisional measures concerning the matter, which shall not last beyond the next General Assembly.

b) Board of Directors

Art. 19 Election

¹ Each full member shall provide a maximum of one delegate as a member of the Board of Directors.

² The Board of Directors shall consist of at least one President, one Vice-President and one Treasurer.

³ A delegate may be nominated by a full member as often as he/she wishes.

⁴ A full member may hold the Presidency for a maximum of five consecutive terms.

⁵ With the exception of the President and the Treasurer, the Board of Directors shall constitute itself¹.

⁶ The General Assembly elects the Presidency, the Treasurer, and the other members of the Board usually at the first General Assembly of each financial year for a duration of one year.

⁷ Replacement elections may exceptionally take place at the second meeting of the General Assembly and are valid until the next General Assembly in the following financial year.

Art. 20 Tasks and competences

¹ The duties of the Board of Directors shall include:

- a) Managing the affairs of the Association
- b) Representing the Association in its external relations
- c) Carrying out the tasks delegated by the General Assembly.
- d) Determining the mission and strategic objectives of the Science Olympiad and monitoring their implementation.

² The Board of Directors shall also elect and oversee the director of the Secretariat.

³ Further tasks and competences are regulated in detail in specifications on tasks and competences. The General Assembly approves the specifications and any amendments thereto.

¹ With the exception of the President and the Treasurer, the Executive Committee may distribute the offices and titles itself.

⁴ For specific tasks, the Board of Directors may form committees and delegate some of its responsibilities to them. The committees thus formed are under the supervision of the Board of Directors.

⁵ The Board of Directors may also assign tasks of the Association to other organizations.

⁶ The Board of Directors may at any time request insight on all matters relating to the Science Olympiad and its Secretariat. It may ask the Secretariat to prepare position papers and reports.

Art. 21 Meetings

¹ Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held as required, but at least once before each General Assembly. The meetings shall be chaired by the President. Minutes shall be kept.

² Board meetings can take place digitally, by telephone or video conference, as well as physically at an on-site meeting.

³ The Secretariat and the associate members are invited to attend without voting rights. The Board of Directors may decide on exceptions and invite guests.

Art. 22 Quorum and Voting

¹ The Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum if more than half of the members of the Board of Directors are present. In the event of a tie, the President shall have a casting vote.

² Each member of the Board shall have one vote.

³ Resolutions shall be passed by a relative majority of the valid votes cast.

⁴ If Board members are unable to attend a Board meeting, they shall endeavour to find a substitute from their own association. This substitute shall have the same voting rights as the Board member being represented.

⁵ The Board of Directors may pass resolutions by circular letter (electronically or by post). Resolutions are adopted if a majority of all members of the Board of Directors agree or disagree with the resolution in writing and if no member of the Board of Directors requests the convening of an extraordinary meeting within one week of the request.

c) Auditors

Art. 23 Election

¹ The Auditors shall be elected by the General Assembly for the duration of one financial year, with the possibility for re-election.

² A member of the Board of Directors may not at the same time be a member of the Auditors.

Art. 24 Tasks and competences

The Auditors shall be responsible in particular for:

- a) auditing the annual accounts of the Association;
- b) reprepating written reports to the General Assembly on the finances and bookkeeping.

d) Secretariat

Art. 25 Tasks and competences

¹ The Secretariat of the Science Olympiad shall be responsible, among other things, for management, fundraising, communication, and administration.

² The services to be provided by the Secretariat shall be determined by the General Assembly.

IV. Finances

Art. 26 Financial regulations

¹ The Financial Regulations govern the financial matters of the Science Olympiad as well as the competences of the Board of Directors and the Secretariat, in addition to the Statutes and other regulations.

² The Board may approve amendments to the Financial Regulations at a Board meeting.

³ The General Assembly may inspect the financial regulations at any time.

Art. 27 Membership fees

A membership fee may be set by the General Assembly.

Art. 28 Resources

The association is financed by membership fees, voluntary contributions, and other income.

Art. 29 Liability

¹ The Association is financially liable only to the extent of its corporate assets.

² The Board of Directors or individual members are not liable.

Art. 30 Bookkeeping

Independent bookkeeping with separate accounts is maintained.

V. Amendment of the Statutes, Merger and Dissolution

Art. 31 Amendment to the Statutes

These Statutes may be amended by the General Assembly. This requires the approval of two thirds of the full members present.

Art. 32 Fusion

A merger may only take place with another legal entity with its registered Secretariat in Switzerland that is exempt from taxation on the grounds of non-profit status or public purpose. This requires the approval of two thirds of the full members present.

Art. 33 Dissolution

The dissolution of the association shall happen:

- a) by decision of the General Assembly, if at least two thirds of the full members present agree;
- b) if the purpose of the association can no longer be fulfilled.

Art. 34 Liquidation

Liquidation shall be carried out by the Board of Directors, unless the General Assembly appoints special liquidators.

Art. 35 Assets of the Association

¹ In the event of dissolution, the profits and capital shall be transferred to another legal entity domiciled in Switzerland that is exempt from tax on account of its public or charitable purpose.

² The members shall have no claim on the assets of the Association.

VI. Final provisions

Art. 36 Entry into force

These Statutes were adopted at the General Assembly on 27 May 2021 and replace the version of 11 June 2020. They are available in Italian, French, German and English. The legally valid version is the German version.