

Bylaws of the European Physical Society

Based on the version of Geneva, 14 July 1969 (initial version) Revised and adopted by Council 27 March 2004, and modified by Council 23 March 2007, and by Council 1 April 2011 and by Council 4-5 April 2014, and by Council on 1-2 April 2016. Revised and adopted by Council 24 November 2023

I COMMUNICATIONS

RULE. 1

- 1 The SOCIETY may, in addition to and in lieu of other forms of communication, inform and communicate with its member through its magazine “Europhysics News” and/or its electronic bulletin “e-EPS” which is produced under the responsibility of the Executive Committee.
- 2 The Secretariat shall distribute Europhysics News and e-EPS to all Individual Members and all Associate Members.
- 3 Member Societies are entitled to receive a number of copies of Europhysics News not to exceed the number of their Effective Members.
- 4 All formal communications with the membership defined as “in writing” or as “ballot paper” in the Constitution and By-laws” shall bear the meaning “written, printed or lithographed and other modes of representing or reproducing words in a visible form, including electronically.”

II MEMBERSHIP

RULE. 2

- 1 Individuals applying for membership shall do so on the standard application form, preferably in electronic format.
- 2 Teachers and students applying for Individual Membership, who are neither member of a Member Society nor of a Collaborating Society and do not have access to Individual Members are required to submit a statement from their educational institution attesting to their quality as a teacher or student as the case may be.
- 3 Individual Members shall have the following privileges:
 - The right to vote at General Meetings;
 - The right to elect Individual Member Council delegates;
 - The right to hold office in the Executive Committee;
 - The right to hold office in Divisions and Groups and be members of EPS Committees and Working Groups
 - Europhysics News sent directly to their specified address;
 - Reduced registration fees at conferences organised by the SOCIETY and its Divisions and Groups;
 - Benefit from agreements with Collaborating Societies;
 - Inclusion in the SOCIETY’s directory.
- 4 Societies eligible for membership as Member Societies shall accompany their application with copies of their constitution and By-laws and of such additional documents as the Council may require.

5 Member Societies shall have the following privileges:

- The right to vote at General Meetings;
- The right to be represented and vote at Council;
- The right to receive a number of copies of Europhysics News as described in Rule 1.3;
- Members of Member Societies may participate in Divisional and Group activities and be members of Committees and Working Groups of the SOCIETY.
- Members of Member Societies are entitled to a reduction of registration fees at conferences organised by the SOCIETY and its Divisions and Groups and Committees and Working Groups.

6 Member Societies shall have the following responsibilities:

- Disseminate information received from the SOCIETY of interest to the European Physics Community to their members using normal communication channels;
- Advertise on membership forms that Individual Membership of the SOCIETY is possible;
- Collect and pay to the SOCIETY fees received from its members for membership in the SOCIETY according to article 3.3 a) on an annual basis;
- Transmit in a predefined format contact coordinates for members who have become members of the SOCIETY according to article 3.3 a).

RULE. 3

Council may elect Fellows of the SOCIETY. Fellows of the SOCIETY shall have the same rights and duties as Individual members. The total number of Fellows at any one time should not exceed 5% of the total of Individual Members of the SOCIETY.

RULE. 4

Council may elect Honorary Members. Honorary Members shall have the same rights as Individual Members of the SOCIETY. The total number of Honorary Members at any one time shall not exceed thirty.

RULE. 5

Council may admit Associate Members. Associate Members shall have the right to send employees to scientific meetings and take out one subscription to the publications of the SOCIETY at a reduced rate. Associate Members shall be represented in the Council according to Articles 14.1 and 17.2 d) of the Constitution.

RULE. 6

All new Members who are elected or admitted shall be informed by the Secretariat of their election or admission and shall receive from the Secretariat copies of the relevant documents.

RULE. 7

No election or admission of Members shall become effective until the relevant fees have been paid.

RULE. 8

In the event of non-payment of the fee, membership will terminate at the end of the year for which payment has not been received

RULE. 9

Expulsion of a member shall be by decision of the Council. The Executive Committee shall present to the Council a full report on the reasons for the proposed expulsion before the matter is considered by the Council.

RULE. 10

All matters of doubt or difficulty relating to membership shall be decided by the Council.

RULE. 11

Collaborating Societies: Relations with collaborating societies are governed solely by bilateral agreements. Collaborating societies do not have any role in the governance of the society.

III ORGANISATION

1 The Council

RULE. 12

The Council Delegates shall normally take office on 1 April of each year.

RULE. 13

1 Member Societies and Divisions and Groups shall have freedom to nominate their representative on the Council, subject only to the Constitution and these By-laws.

2 Representatives on the Council of the Individual Members shall be elected by ballot from a list, provided by the Secretariat, of all nominations signed by at least three Individual Members and received by the Secretariat before 1 January of the year of the election. Only Individual Members shall participate in the vote. The ballot returns with candidates are arranged in order of decreasing number of votes obtained. This then provides the names of that category of Council members, in the number required by article 14.1 b) of the Constitution. The names for those who may be needed later on to fill casual vacancies for an un-expired term – always counting down the list, in the direction of decreasing strength of ballot votes received – are also provided.

3 Representatives on the Council of Associate Members shall be elected by ballot from a list, provided by the Secretariat, of all nominations of individual candidates received from the Associate Members before 1 January of the year of the election. Only Associate Members shall participate in the vote. The ballot returns with candidates are arranged in order of decreasing number of votes obtained. This then provides the names of that category of Council members, in the number required by article 14.1 d) of the Constitution. The names for those who may be needed later on to fill casual vacancies for an un-expired term – always counting down the list, in the direction of decreasing strength of ballot votes received – are also provided.

2 The Executive Committee

RULE. 14

1 The Executive Committee shall create a selection committee that will establish a list of candidates for the replacement of outgoing members of the Executive Committee as positions become vacant. For establishing this list the selection committee will:

- a) For Executive Committee Members described in Article 19 c, consult with and receive a nomination from Member Societies with an effective membership greater than or equal to 10,000
- b) For Executive Committee Members described in Article 19 d, consult with Member Societies other than those in Article 19 c
- c) For Executive Committee Members described in Article 19 e, consult with Divisions and Groups
- d) For Executive Committee Members described in Article 19 f, consult with Individual Members
- e) For Executive Committee Members described in Article 19 g, consult with Associate Members

2 In the event that nominations are not proposed or received after consultation with the relevant bodies or persons as described in Rule 14.1 b) to e), the selection committee may make appropriate nominations

3 The selection committee will consider appropriate geographical, topical and gender balance when establishing the list of candidates for the Executive Committee.

4 This list of candidates shall be presented to the Council accompanied by a CV and an election campaign statement. Candidates who have been designated to stand for a position, i.e. Vice-President but not the President-elect in those years he/she has to be elected, SOCIETY Secretary and SOCIETY Treasurer shall be indicated.

5 Separate lists will be prepared and presented to Council, showing distinctly candidates for President-elect, and members to be elected to the Executive Committee described in Article 19 c to g.

6 The number of candidates presented for President-elect, and for Executive Committee Members described in Article 19 d to g should normally exceed the number of vacancies. Only one candidate from each Member Society with more than 10,000 effective members should be nominated.

7 Staff members or professionals that are paid employees of another learned Society or similar Organization with potential conflict of interest with EPS cannot stand as a candidate for the Executive Committee.

8 Nothing above precludes nominations from Council Members at the Council Meeting for Executive Committee Members in categories described in Article 19 d, e, f and g. Such nominations require five supporting Council Member signatures and must be received by the Secretariat of the Council Meeting prior to 18:00 h on the first day of Council.

9 The sequence of voting in the Council shall be as follows:

a) in years where a President-elect is to be elected:

1st ballot for the President-elect

2nd ballot for the other vacant positions

b) in years where no President-elect is to be elected:

A single ballot for the other vacant positions

10 A candidate for President-elect must receive the absolute majority of votes cast, disregarding abstentions. In the event that there are more than 2 candidates for President-elect and no candidate receives an absolute majority, then the name of the person receiving the lowest number of votes is removed from the ballot and additional ballots shall be organised as necessary.

11 Members of the Executive Committee described in Article 19 d to g are elected from ballot lists prepared by the Secretariat. All Council delegates vote for each list. Each list is tallied separately. Following the return of the ballots, the candidates for each list described in Article 19 d to g are arranged in order of decreasing number of votes obtained. This then provides the names of the required number of Members of the Executive Committee for each of the categories described in Article 19 d to g to fill the open positions. In case of a tie among candidates, which would lead to one or more supernumerary Members of the Executive Committee in one or more of the categories in Article 19 d to g, additional ballots for all remaining candidates will be organised as necessary.

12 Council delegates will be asked to approve the appointment of Members of the Executive Committee described in Article 19 c. The approval process will be the object of a vote, simultaneous with the vote described in Rule 14. Members of the Executive Committee described in Article 19 c will be appointed if they receive more than 50% of the votes cast, excluding abstentions. In the event that Council does not approve the appointment of Members of the Executive Committee described in Article 19 c, the Member Society that made the nomination shall be entitled to appoint another individual to serve as a Member of the Executive Committee, for approval by Council at the next meeting where votes are organised.

13 With respect to Article 19.8, "Exceptional circumstances" are those in which the organisation of an EPS council meeting where elections are to be held is impossible or where holding such elections would be damaging to the SOCIETY. This include circumstances where council considers that elections would not be free and fair. "Exceptional circumstances" also include events where in the opinion of council a lack of continuity of the executive committee would threaten the wellbeing of the society.

14 Candidates for President-elect are expected to propose a programme of activities that they will undertake during their term of office as President with the support of the Executive Committee.

RULE. 15

All decisions of the Executive Committee shall be by simple majority of those present and voting. In case the vote is a tie, the President shall decide. A quorum shall be reached if 50% or more members of the Executive Committee are present.

RULE. 16

The Executive Committee shall meet not fewer than twice a year.

3 The Secretariat

RULE. 17

The Secretary General shall be responsible to the SOCIETY Secretary for general administrative matters and to the Treasurer of the SOCIETY for financial matters. The Secretary General shall take part ex-officio, but without voting power, in the meetings of the Council and the Executive Committee.

RULE. 18

Besides the Secretary General, the Secretariat shall have employees appointed by the Secretary General as authorised by the Executive Committee.

RULE. 19

The Executive Committee may establish supplementary secretariats, subject to approval by the Council.

IV DIVISIONS AND GROUPS

RULE. 20

1 The formation of a Division or a Group may be approved by the Council on receipt of a formal request, including a programme of activities by not less than five Members of the SOCIETY.

2 In order for a Division or Group to have voting rights at Council, it must fulfil the following criteria:

A minimum of 50 identified members;

A regularly constituted Board;

An annual report made to Council, including a programme of activities.

3 In the event of a Division or Group failing to meet the above criteria, Council, upon recommendation of the Executive Committee, may decide to abolish the Division or Group concerned.

4 All prizes and distinctions awarded by EPS Divisions, Groups and Committees must be endorsed by the Executive Committee, and will include the inclusiveness requirements adopted by the Executive Committee

RULE. 21

Rules and regulations governing Divisions and Groups shall be approved by the Council.

V MEETINGS, VOTING RULES

RULE. 22

The venue of meetings shall be so chosen that there is no restriction on the attendance of members from anywhere.

RULE. 23

1 Total units assessed as used in Article 17.3 a) for Individual Members is equal to the total fees paid by Individual Members divided by the unit as defined in Rule 25.

2 Total units assessed as used in Article 17.3 a) for a given Member Society is equal to the membership fee paid by the Member Society in question divided by the unit as defined in Rule 25.

RULE. 24

As a general rule abstentions are considered as non-votes.

VI MEMBERSHIP FEES

RULE. 25

The annual membership fees for Member Societies and Individual Members shall be expressed in Euro, fixed by the Council for any one year, and calculated in terms of units. The annual membership fees are contained in the annex to the By-laws.

RULE. 26

1 When calculating membership fees, the total membership of Member Societies shall be taken into account. For Member Societies each full member shall count as one unit. However, Council may, when establishing fees from Member Societies, take into account any reduced fees applied by them for special membership categories (teachers, students, etc.) and allow amounts less than one unit to be ascribed to such categories of member. The total number of units so calculated for the Member Society is the Effective Number of Units and shall determine the votes for the purposes of Art 15.3a and the annual dues and units in Art 23.3 of the Constitution.

2 The membership fee per unit paid by the Member Society may be modulated in steps corresponding to increments in the Effective Number of Units in Member Societies.

RULE. 27

1 Council shall set the fees for Individual Members with differential fees according to the membership categories in Constitution article 3.3a), 3.3b), 3.3c). The number of units to be paid by Individual Members is set out in Annex 1. The fee to be paid per unit by Individual Members shall be equal to the average fee per unit paid by the Member Societies collectively. Council shall set the fees for Individual Members with differential fees according to the membership categories in Constitution article 3.3a), 3.3b), 3.3c). The number of units to be paid by Individual Members is set out in Annex 1. The fee to be paid per unit by Individual Members shall be equal to the average fee per unit paid by the Member Societies collectively.

2 In category 3.3a), Student Members, Teachers, Individual Members below 30 years of age and Individual Members certifying their retirement from professional activities shall pay the number of units in annex 1.

3 For categories 3.3b) and 3.3c), Student members, Teachers, Individual Members below 30 years of age and Individual Members certifying their retirement from professional activities shall pay the number of units in annex 1.

4 In cases where the amount to be paid in category 3.3a) would exceed 30% of the fee paid to the National Society for membership therein, special arrangements can be made.

RULE. 28

Any proposal by the Executive Committee to increase the membership fee per unit for Member Societies and Individual Members shall be submitted in writing to Individual Members and Member Societies at least three months before the Council is to meet to decide the matter.

RULE. 29

Associate Members shall pay annual fees to be set by the Council.

RULE. 30

Honorary Members shall not be required to pay any fees.

RULE. 31

Collaborating Societies are not required to pay a membership fee.

RULE. 32

Membership of a Division or Group or Committee shall not involve any additional fee to the SOCIETY from Individual Members

RULE. 33

The Executive Committee shall have power to arrange for payment of fees in local currency where problems of restricted convertibility exist, or to set reduced fees for Members. The Secretary General will pass proposals for reduced fees for Members, to the Executive Committee for approval

RULE. 34

Membership fees shall be due on 1 January of every financial year, Members adopted by the SOCIETY during a financial year shall pay fees for the current year proportionally. Membership fees shall be due on 1 January of every financial year, Members adopted by the SOCIETY during a financial year shall pay fees for the current year fully. As an exception to Rule 33, Members who join during the last quarter of the current year will not pay fees for the current year. Instead, the fee collected will cover the membership fee for the following year.