

Rationale for Revised IFORS Statutes

The IFORS Administrative Committee has proposed changes to the IFORS Statutes and Bylaws. These proposed changes are now the subject of ballot of member societies. A copy of the proposed new statutes is provided as a separate document.

There are two reasons for proposing these changes:

1. As an international organisation, IFORS has recently obtained registration in Switzerland. IFORS is now in the process of seeking non-profit status, and changes are necessary to our Statutes and Bylaws to comply with Swiss law for non-profit status. The changes are listed in sections 1-3 below.
2. Recognising that communications methods have changed in the past two decades, the AC also proposed changes to reduce the voting and notification periods for various ballots and meetings, to improve the smooth running of IFORS operations. Changes are listed in sections 4-14 below.

The proposed changes have already been subject to a three-month consultation period (July – September 2023) with the member societies. No further alterations were suggested during this period.

The key changes in the Statutes to comply with Swiss law for non-profit status are:

1. Declaration of legal status:
Paragraph inserted in Article I - The International Federation of Operational Research Societies (hereinafter: the Federation, IFORS) is an association within the meaning of Articles 60ff. of the Swiss Civil Code. It therefore has the status of a legal person within the meaning of Swiss law
2. Procedure for dissolution:
We hope IFORS will continue in perpetuity, but should IFORS needs to be dissolved, the procedure has to be amended, since Swiss law prohibits the return of funds to founders. We believe the proposed change better enables the AC to ensure that remaining funds are used for the original objectives of IFORS.
Article VI.3 changed to - In the event of the cessation of the Federation's activities, the funds devoted to the pursuit of its aims will be allocated to another legal person under Swiss law pursuing similar aims and benefiting from a tax exemption comparable to that of IFORS. The Administrative Committee proposes a legal entity meeting these criteria to the Board of Representatives, which decides on its designation as beneficiary of the funds
3. Clear declaration of non-commercial purpose of IFORS and voluntary basis of officers:
 - a. Article V.1. Added - The Officers shall exercise their respective mandates on a voluntary basis. Only actual and travel expenses may be compensated.
 - b. Article V.12(a). Added - The Treasurer exercises his mandate on a voluntary basis
 - c. Article V.12(b). Added - The activity of the Secretary may be remunerated as an activity essential to the achievement of the objectives and aims defined in Article I of these Statutes.
 - d. Article VI.4. Added - The Federation shall not pursue any profit or commercial purpose. ... It will use the proceeds of its financial resources exclusively to finance its general activities.

The changes to reduce the time for ballots and notices are in the following articles:

4. Article II.3 – reduce ballot period from 6 to 3 months.
5. Article II.4 – reduce notice period from 6 to 3 months

6. Article II.5 – reduce ballot period from 6 to 3 months, and reduce effective date by 3 months.
7. Article III.2 – reduce ballot period from 6 to 3 months.
8. Article III.4 – reduce notice period and ballot period from 6 to 3 months.
9. Article IV.4 – reduce agenda notice period from 60 to 30 days.
10. Article V.9 -- reduce ballot period from 6 to 3 months.
11. Article VI.1 -- reduce ballot period from 6 to 3 months.
12. Article VI.2 -- reduce ballot period from 6 to 3 months.
13. Article VIII.1 -- reduce ballot period from 6 to 3 months.
14. Bylaws 15. – reduce review period from 3 to 2 months.

There is also a third proposed change to clause 6.(a)(ii) of the Bylaws:

“... contributing editor to *the IFORS Newsletter*”

since IAOR does not exist anymore, but contributing editors are needed for the IFORS newsletter.

Gavin Blackett
IFORS Secretary
On behalf of the Administrative Committee