



FISMTM

Fédération Internationale des Sociétés Magiques
International Federation of Magic Societies

FISM STATUTES





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ARTICLE 1 Name of the Federation

On September 5th 1948 a Federation was founded by the Magic Societies present, who agreed upon the basic articles of the following Statutes and the name « Fédération Internationale des Sociétés Magiques » (International Federation of Magic Societies), abbreviated to FISMTM, was adopted.

ARTICLE 2 Duration

The duration of the Federation is unlimited.

ARTICLE 3 Aims of the FISMTM

3.1 The aims of the FISM are:

- to be a leading global platform of magic, committed to the enhancement, promotion and development of the Art of Magic;
- to unify the organisation of magic and to create a central body to whom general questions concerning magic and the interest of the magicians can be submitted;
- to enhance the co-operation between Member Societies, co ordinate their activities, intensify their authority and to encourage the exchange of reciprocal aid and services;
- to develop, promote and preserve the knowledge of the history of magic;
- to fight against exposure and copies of magic acts, effects or inventions, presentations or original routines.

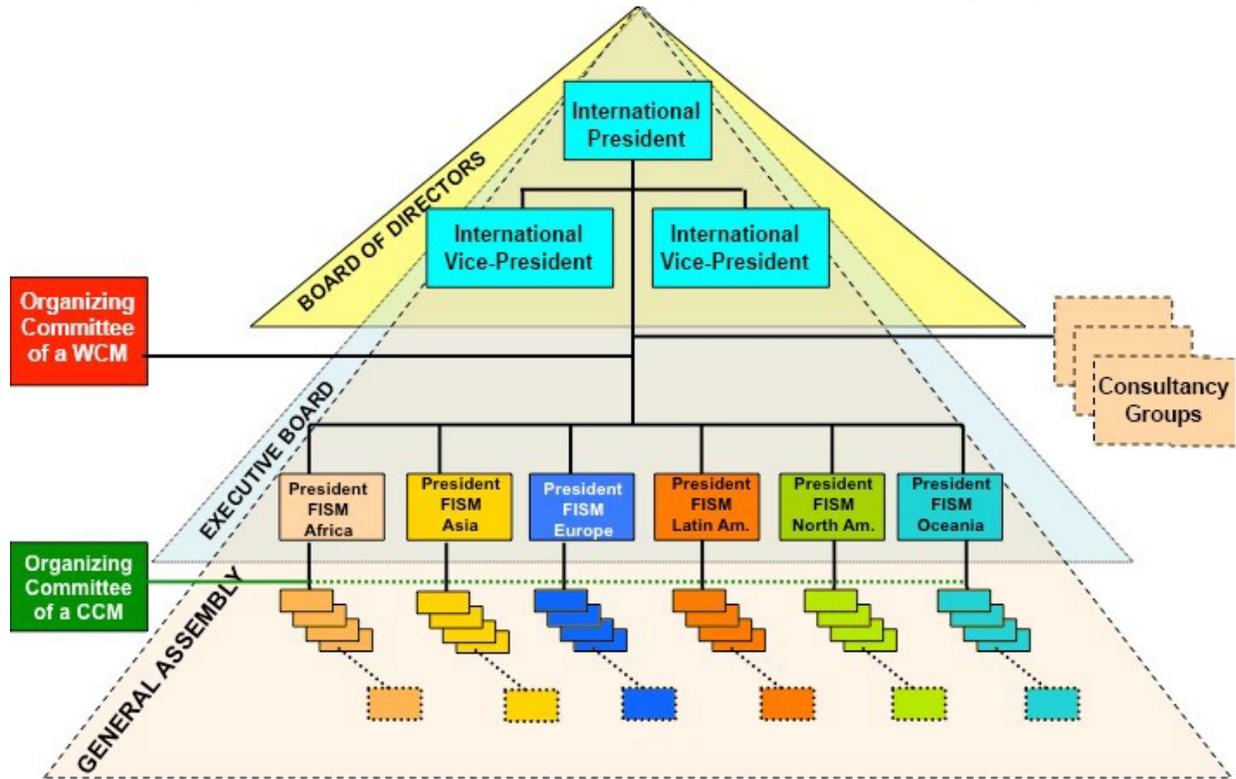
3.2 The principal mechanism by which the FISM seeks to achieve its aims are:

- the hosting and organization of the World Championship of Magic (WCM), which will be held at least every three years;
- the encouragement and support of the hosting and organization of Continental Championships of Magic (CCM), the names of which: Asian Championship of Magic; African Championship of Magic; European Championship of Magic; Latin American Championship of Magic; North American Championship of MagicTM and Oceanian Championship of Magic are a trademark of the FISM.
- To obtain and maintain a standard of quality, the 'FISM Contest Rules and Procedures, as annexed to these Statutes shall be used for both the World Championship of Magic and the Continental Championships of Magic.

3.3 No individual Member Society is allowed to use the terms "World", "Asian", "African", "European", "Latin American", "North American" or "Oceanian", in conjunction with its name, convention or its competition, without prior consent.

ARTICLE 4 Organizational Structures

- 4.1 FISM is an organization based on worldwide voluntary membership of Magic Societies. Member Societies incorporating national affiliated societies speak on their behalf. As such, recognition is granted to the Member Societies, and not to constituent members.
- 4.2 The basic organizational structure of the FISM is depicted in the following diagram



- 4.3 The Member Societies are organizationally grouped into six Continental Divisions, which are trademarks of the FISM: FISM Asia™, FISM Africa™, FISM Europe™, FISM Latin America™, FISM North America™, and FISM Oceania™. The Continental Divisions may use subtitles that reflects them best.
- 4.3.1 The organizational structure, the decision making process and further necessary rules of the Continental Divisions shall be recorded in Rules of Conduct, to be endorsed by the Board of Directors (See Article 4.5). The Rules of Conduct of the Continental Divisions shall be in line with and not contradictory to these Statutes and shall be attached as separate annexes to these Statutes.
- 4.3.2 Each Continental Division is run by its own Board, represented by its Continental President, as elected and appointed according to its Rules of Conduct. A Continental President is responsible to the International President.
- 4.3.3 Continental Divisions, being integral and inextricable parts of the FISM, share the same aims as mentioned in Article 3.1, with the understanding that the main mechanism through which they seek to achieve these aims will be the organization of a Continental Championship of Magic to be held, at least every three years. Other activities of Continental Divisions will be primarily related to the respective continents and shall be mentioned in their Rules of Conduct.

- 4.4** The ultimate directive authority for the conduct of the affairs of the FISM is vested in the General Assembly, consisting of a representative (delegate) per Member Society and the Continental Presidents. A meeting of the General Assembly is presided over by the International President who shall be elected and appointed by the General Assembly. If the candidate is not part of the General Assembly a sponsoring letter of a FISM affiliated magic society of his country is necessary. Preferably from their midst the General Assembly further appoints two International Vice Presidents, one of whom shall handle the financial affairs of the FISM. He/she should have a degree in finance or economics, or should be a “professional authorized accountant”. If the candidate (either General Affairs or Finance) is not part of the General Assembly a sponsoring letter of a FISM affiliated magic society of his/her country is necessary. The International President and the International Vice Presidents shall be appointed for an initial period of six years, after which they can be re-elected for a consecutive term of three years. Provided however, the service of the International President shall be limited to one such consecutive three year term.
- 4.5** The International President and the two International Vice-Presidents constitute the Board of Directors BoD, which is presided over by the International President. The Board of Directors represents the FISM in all its external relationships; endorses the Rules of Conduct of the Continental Divisions, initiates strategic alterations and shall be responsible for the preparation and implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly. The Board of Directors is responsible to the General Assembly.
- 4.5.1.** The title of Honorary President will be automatically given, upon retirement, to those FISM presidents who served on the FISM Board for at least 12 years. It may be given, with a vote of the General Assembly, to a retired president who does not reach that period but has rendered great service to FISM.
The title of all Honorary Presidents is always limited to a period of six years.
The Honorary President is not part of the General Assembly. Nevertheless he can attend the meetings, but has no vote.
- 4.6** The six Continental Presidents, together with the Board of Directors, constitute the FISM EXECUTIVE BOARD (FEB). Meetings of the FEB will be presided over by the International President. The Continental Presidents provide input to the Board of Directors about any major shift of FISM strategy.
The following issues can only be decided by the General Assembly:
- the election and appointment of the International President and the International Vice-Presidents;
 - the dissolution of the FISM;
 - alterations to the Statutes and to the “FISM Competition Rules and Procedures”;
 - the approval of the accounts and the budget for a new period;
 - the election of the venue of the next FISM World Championship of Magic, which issues will be determined by the General Assembly.
- 4.7** The organization of the World Championship of Magic and the organization of Continental Championships of Magic, will be headed by a President of the Organizing Committee. The President of the Organizing Committee of the World Championship of Magic is responsible to the International President. The President of the Organizing Committee of a Continental Championship of Magic is responsible to the relevant Continental President.
- 4.8** Temporary and standing Working Groups can be set up by the Board of Directors to deal with and advise about organizational issues and issues concerning magic in the broadest sense.

- 4.9** The Member Societies and consequently the Continental Divisions, endorse the Statutes and the ‘FISM Contest Rules and Procedures’ and undertake to observe the decisions of the FISM. Neither the FISM, nor one of its Continental Divisions has the right to interfere with the internal affairs of a Member Society.
- 4.10** In the absence of a formal establishment, the office of the FISM shall be fixed at the residence of the International President.

ARTICLE 5 Languages

- 5.1** French, English, German and Spanish are the official languages of the FISM. No other languages shall be added. For practical reasons all communications from the Board of Directors or the FEB to the Member Societies shall be made in English. Member Societies may communicate in one of the four official languages of the FISM. Members of the Board of Directors and members of the FEB should be able to communicate in English.
- 5.2** The Statutes of the FISM and the ‘FISM Contest Rules and Procedures’ will be translated in all the official languages. The Rules of Conduct of a Continental Division shall be in English and will be translated in at least one of the other official languages of the FISM. In the event of a dispute concerning the interpretation or application of the Statutes or of the “FISM Contest Rules and Procedures”, the International President, after consultation with the other members of the Board of Directors, shall have the authority to render a decision, which shall be final and binding for all parties. In the event of a dispute concerning the interpretation or application of the Rules of Conduct of a Continental Division, the relevant Continental President shall have the authority to render a decision, to be endorsed by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 6 The General Assembly

- 6.1** A meeting of the General Assembly will be held on the occasion of each FISM World Championship of Magic or at any time on request of the Board of Directors or a majority of the Continental Presidents. Each delegate must identify himself at meetings of the General Assembly and, if asked, present a copy of the letter appointing him or her. Additionally the number of currently- active members of his or her Society, at the date of the meeting, must be confirmed.
- 6.2** Whenever it has not been possible to hold a FISM World Championship of Magic, the International President shall convene a meeting of the General Assembly not later than 12 months following the date on which the convention should have taken place.
- 6.3** Member Societies shall inform the International President, at least four months before the date of a General Assembly, of the current number of active members of their Society.
- 6.4** At the latest two months before the date of a General Assembly, the International President will send to each delegate, an agenda bearing all questions submitted to the FISM, new applications for membership, names of the candidates for replacement of the members of the Board of Directors and a copy of the financial state of the FISM.
- 6.5** The FISM will not defray the cost of representation of any Member Society.



ARTICLE 7 Votes

7.1 The votes are attributed in the following manner

from 10	to 25	members	1 vote
from 26	to 50	members	2 votes
from 51	to 100	members	4 votes
from 101	to 250	members	6 votes
from 251	to 400	members	8 votes
from 401	to 550	members	10 votes
from 551	to 700	members	12 votes
from 701	to 850	members	14 votes
from 851	to 1000	members	16 votes
from 1001	to 1150	members	18 votes
from 1151	to 1300	members	20 votes
from 1301	to 1450	members	22 votes
from 1451	to 1600	members	24 votes
from 1601	to 1750	members	26 votes
from 1751	to 1900	members	28 votes
from 1901	to 2500	members	30 votes
from 2501			34 votes

7.2 Societies of one country shall divide on a pro rata basis the votes attributed to them according to the number of members they have in total.

7.3 The maximum number of votes for one country is 34. In case Societies of one country total more than 34 votes, 34 votes will be divided, on a pro-rata basis, among those Societies.

ARTICLE 8 Decision making process

8.1 Decisions of the General Assembly, of the FEB and of the Board of Directors will be made by voting. Only delegates of Member Societies that are in good standing, including payment in full their contribution can vote. All polls concerning persons will be secret.

8.1.1 In the General Assembly, delegates represent a number of votes according to Article 7. Members of the Board of Directors and of the Board of a Continental Division have no additional voting rights. However in case of an equality in votes, the International President, after consulting the International Vice Presidents, shall break the tie.

8.1.2 In the FEB the International President and the International Vice Presidents each represent 1 vote.

A President of a Continental Division with a total number of votes according to Article 7 of

less than 6 votes represents 1 vote

6 – 30 votes represents 2 votes

30 – 50 votes represents 4 votes

51 – 100 votes represents 8 votes

more than 100 votes represents 10 votes

8.1.3 In the Board of Directors the International President and the International Vice Presidents each represent 1 vote.

- 8.2 For delegates from one country, voting by proxy is authorized. Voting by proxy on behalf of a society from another country is limited to one society only. Voting by correspondence and voting by e-mail is authorized.
- 8.3 Except for the alterations of the Statutes and the dissolution of the FISM, the General Assembly shall make its decisions by a simple majority of the votes cast.
- 8.4 The Statutes can only be altered by decision of the General Assembly on demand of the Board of Directors, the FEB, a Continental President or on demand of at least three Member Societies of three different countries. In order to be adopted, the amendments to the Statutes must obtain both the majority of the votes cast and the majority of the voting Societies, each Society counting for one vote.
- 8.5 The dissolution of the FISM can be arrived at by vote at a General Assembly, by a majority of 75% of the maximum votes of the General Assembly. Should such a decision be adopted, the General Assembly will decide how to disburse the funds of the FISM.

ARTICLE 9 Finance

9.1 The financial assets of the FISM will be

- contributions of the Member Societies, as approved by the General Assembly;
- admission fees from new Member Societies (See Article 10.4);
- (part of the) revenues of a FISM World Championship of Magic and of a FISM Continental Championship of Magic;
- sponsoring or gifts;
- benefits from any other legal income source.

The assets shall be utilized to cover the expenses of the FISM and to form a fund to be able to contribute to the compensation of a possible financial deficit of a FISM World Championship of Magic or of a FISM Continental Championship of Magic.

9.2 The contribution, and the admission fee for new Member Societies will be endorsed by the General Assembly.

The contribution shall be in proportion to the number of members of a Member Society. The contribution and the admission fee have to be paid within three months following the approval of the General Assembly.

9.3 The FISM finances shall be subject to audit and verification by a Finance Committee of three persons, to be appointed by the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 10 Admissions

10.1 A Magic Society can apply for membership of the FISM providing the society has a minimum of ten members and has existed for at least three years. A Magic Society cannot apply for membership of a Continental Division directly. Once accepted, a Magic Society will automatically become a Member Society of the Continental Division of the continent in which the Society is based.

10.2 In any year new applications for admission to the FISM must be forwarded to the International President before the 1st of January.

10.3 The application letter must enclose:

- sponsoring letters of at least two Member Societies. If there are other Member Societies in the country of the applicant, a minimum of 50% +1 of the total number of votes they represent, must be in favour of the admission;
- a copy of the Statutes or Rules of Conduct of the Society;
- a list of the names of the members of the Society;

10.4 The newly accepted Member Society

- endorses the Statutes of the FISM, the ‘FISM Contest Rules and Procedures’ and the Rules of Conduct of the relevant Continental Division;
- agrees to pay an admission fee, and – agrees to pay the contribution in full and in good time.

10.5 The Board of Directors will be charged to gather information concerning the magical standing of the applicant Society. The result of this inquiry will be sent to the General Assembly before the voting. A voting for the admission of a new society shall take place before the 1st of May, following the year of the request.

ARTICLE 11 FISM World Championship of Magic™

11.1 A FISM World Championship of Magic™, is a Magic Championship between members of Member Societies of the FISM and can be part of a World Magic Convention, composed of a.o.

- (i) Gala Shows, performed by prominent magicians and other artists;
- (ii) Lectures and Workshops by respected artists or prominent experts on themes pertaining to magic in the broadest sense;
- (iii) a Magic Dealers Trade Fair and (iv) Social events.

11.2 A FISM World Championship of Magic, either as a separate event or as a part of a World Magic Convention, will be organized under the auspices and supervision of the FISM by one of the Member Societies or by a Professional Convention Organizer with the support of a Member Society. The Board of Directors will regularly check the quality and the progress of the organization and will keep the General Assembly informed.

11.3 The election of a Member Society to host and organize a FISM World Championship of Magic, either as a separate event or as a part of a World Magic Convention, shall be ratified in a written legal agreement between the Board of Directors and the President of the Organizing Committee, defining the terms and conditions.

11.4 Candidatures for Host Society status of a FISM World Championship of Magic must be received at least six months before the meeting of the General Assembly at a FISM World Championship of Magic.

The application for Host Society status must enclose:

- a copy of the accepted option for the reservation of the planned premises.
- a detailed estimated budget for the Convention;
- a list of planned activities;
- the name of the person in charge of organising the Convention and of the person who would replace him in case of unavailability;
- a list of at least four officials in a Committee that will be in charge of the organization of the Convention;
- a commitment to accept and scrupulously respect the supervision of the FISM Board of Directors and the ‘FISM Contest Rules and Procedures’;
- a commitment to sign the agreement as mentioned in Article 11.3, once the Society has been elected Host Society.

11.5 The candidate Society shall inform at the earliest possible date, the time that at least two members of the Board of Directors can visit the planned premises and examine the accommodation and hotel possibilities in order to report to the General Assembly.

- 11.6** The Host Society shall, immediately following the end of the Championship, forward a payment of 1,5 % (one and a half percent) of the gross convention fees to the International Vice President responsible for the financial affairs of the FISM.
- 11.7** In addition to the payment mentioned in Article 11.6, the following expenses have a priority claim on the receipts of the Championship:
- the expenses of the organization of the General Assembly;
 - the expenses of the FISM-contest, including the printing of the necessary Jury forms, the drinks and meals for the jury during the judging process, a jury meeting room and all the technical facilities and administration costs in order to be able to judge according to the “FISM Contest Rules and Procedures”;
 - further reasonable expenses in the interest of the FISM, to the judgment of the Board of Directors.
- 11.8** The financial results of a FISM World Championship of Magic shall be subject to audit and verification by or on behalf of the Board of Directors. In case of a deficit the International President is authorized to have the aforementioned expenses, or part of them, deducted from the 1,5% pay over as mentioned in Article 11.6.
- 11.9** If the FISM World Championship of Magic should end in a total deficit, the FISM will waive the claim on the 1.5% pay over and may be requested to contribute toward compensation for the deficit.

ARTICLE 12 FISM Continental Championship of Magic

- 12.1** A FISM Continental Championship of Magic is a competition between competitors, who are members of a society, affiliated to the relevant Continental Division and can be part of a Continental Magic Convention, which may further be composed of the same elements as of a FISM World Magic Convention.
- 12.2** A FISM Continental Championship of Magic, either as a special event or as a part of a Continental Magic Convention, shall be organized under the auspices of the Board of Directors and shall be supervised by the relevant Continental President. The organizers, who can be a relevant Member Society or a Professional Convention Organizer with the help of a relevant Member Society, have to guarantee a quality standard worthy of the FISM.
- 12.3** The election of a Member Society to host and organize a FISM Continental Championship of Magic, as a special event or as a part of a Continental Magic Convention shall be ratified in a written legal agreement between the Board of Directors and the relevant Continental President on the one hand and the President of the Organizing Committee on the other hand, defining the terms and conditions.

ARTICLE 13 Alterations in rules of Member Societies – Cancellation of Membership – Disciplinary decisions

- 13.1** Member Societies must inform the Board of Directors a Continental President of all alterations to their rules or organization since the previous meeting.
- 13.2** Member Societies will send their resignation from the FISM to the International President Contributions paid will not be refunded and the resigning Member Society will have no claim on the funds of the FISM.

13.3 The General Assembly may, in response to the application of the Board of Directors or of the FISM Executive Board or of at least two Member Societies, each from a different country, determine that a Member Society should be subjected to discipline, up to, and including, expulsion. A demand for discipline from Member Societies must state the specific grounds upon which the demand for discipline is based and must be in possession of the Board of Directors at least four months before the General Assembly convenes. The International President will inform the Member Society concerned at such a notice that the Society will be able to challenge the grounds upon which the demand for discipline is based. Disciplinary decisions will be made in the sole discretion of the General Assembly and will be final and binding.

ARTICLE 14 Transition Period

As long as the organizational structure (cf. article 4.2) is not fully operational, all matters pertaining to the concerned clubs, can be treated by the BoD in the best interest of the clubs.



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