



**FISM**<sup>TM</sup>

Fédération Internationale des Sociétés Magiques  
International Federation of Magic Societies

## **FISM STATUTES**

### **ARTICLE 1 Name of the Federation**

On September 5th, 1948, a Federation was founded by the Magic Societies then 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 FISM<sup>TM</sup>, was adopted (hereinafter referred to as the FISM).

### **ARTICLE 2 Duration**

The duration of the FISM is unlimited.

### **ARTICLE 3 Aims of the FISM<sup>TM</sup>**

**3.4** 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 organization of magic and—create a central body to whom general questions concerning magic and the interests of the magicians can be submitted;
- to intensify the co-operation between Member Societies, coordinate their activities,—strengthen their authority and 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.

**3.5** The principal mechanisms by which the FISM seeks to achieve its aims are:

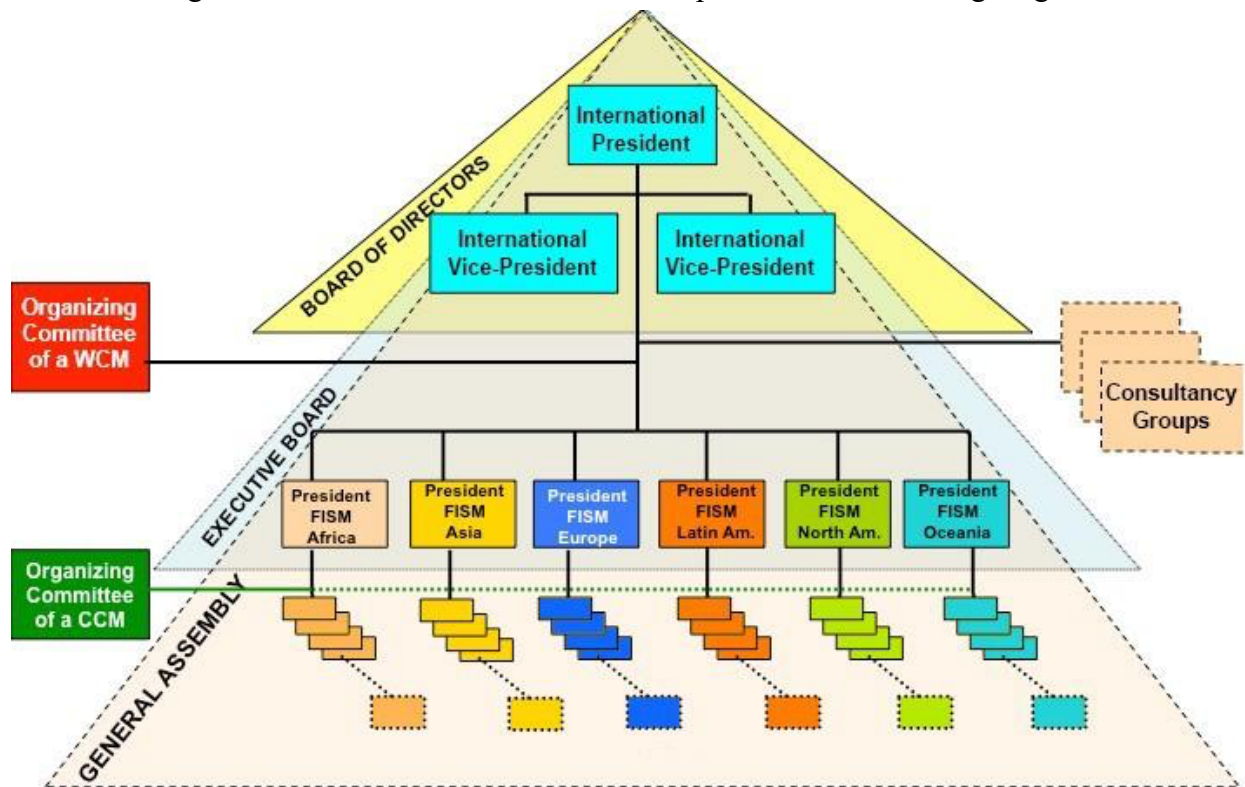
- the hosting and organization of the World Championship of Magic (WCM), which will be held at least every three years;
- the encouragement and support of the hosting and organization of Continental Championships of Magic (CCM), the names of which: Asian Championship of Magic; African Championship of Magic; European Championship of Magic; Latin American Championship of Magic; North American Championship of Magic and Oceanian Championship of Magic, which are all trademarks 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.

**3.6** 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 of the Board of Directors of the FISM.

### **ARTICLE 4 Organizational Structures**

**4.1** The FISM is an organization based on worldwide voluntary membership of Magic Societies. Member Societies incorporate national affiliated societies and act 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 reflect 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 reports to the International President.

4.3.3 The 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 the 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/her 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 while the other shall deal with the general affairs of the FISM. The FISM Board can appoint a consultant to help the Vice President of Finance. 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 required. 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. 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 together the Board of Directors (the BoD) which is presided over by the International President. The BoD represents the FISM in all its external relationships including the entering into contracts, endorses the Rules of Conduct of the Continental Divisions, initiates strategic amendments to the FISM rules and regulations to stay current with modern times and propose required alterations, and is responsible for the preparation and implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly. The BoD reports to the General Assembly.
- 4.5.1** Should for any reason one of the BoD members be temporarily unable to exercise his/her duties, then the remaining two Board members are empowered to conduct the BoD business until the absent member resumes his/her duties or until further notice. If the incapacity is expected to be of a permanent nature, or if the BoD member resigns or is otherwise unable to continue in office, the BoD shall formally announce the vacancy to the General Assembly. Until the vacancy is filled, the remaining BoD members shall continue to fulfill their duties, ensuring the BoD remains operational. The position will remain vacant until the next scheduled triennial elections, at which time candidates may apply for the position, regardless of the original term's expiration associated with that position.
- 4.5.2** The title of Honorary President may be given, with a vote of the General Assembly, to a retired president who has rendered great service to the FISM. The title of all Honorary Presidents is for their lifetime. The Honorary President is not part of the General Assembly. Nevertheless, he/she can attend the meetings, but has no vote.
- 4.6** The six Continental Presidents, together with the BoD, 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 BoD. 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 Contest Rules and Procedures”;
  - the approval of the accounts of the past period 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 reports to the International President. The President of the Organizing Committee of a Continental Championship of Magic reports to the relevant Continental President.
- 4.8** Temporary and standing Working Groups can be set up by the BoD to deal with and advise on 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 any 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-headquarter of the FISM shall be fixed at the residence of the International President.

## **ARTICLE 5 Languages**

- 5.1** English, French, German and Spanish are the official languages of the FISM. No other languages shall be added. For practical reasons, all communications from the BoD 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 BoD 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 BoD, 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, which will have to be endorsed by the BoD.

**ARTICLE 6 The General Assembly**

- 6.1** A meeting of the General Assembly will be held at each FISM World Championship of Magic or at any time on request of the BoD or a majority of the Continental Presidents. Each delegate must identify himself/herself 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. In case of matters of urgency, the BoD may decide to conduct an online General Assembly (e.g. by Zoom, Teams or any other technological communication solution).
- 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 issues submitted to the FISM, such as new applications for membership, names of the candidates for replacement of the members of the BoD and a of the financial condition of the FISM.
- 6.5** The FISM will not-pay the representation costs 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 these Societies.



**ARTICLE 8 Decision making process.**

**8.1** Decisions of the General Assembly, of the FEB and of the BoD will be made by voting. Only delegates of Member Societies that are in good standing, including payment in full of 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 BoD 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 the Statutes represents:

less than 6 votes	1 vote
6 – 30 votes	2 votes
30 – 50 votes	4 votes
51 – 100 votes	8 votes
more than 100 votes	10 votes

**8.1.3** In the BoD, the International President, and the International Vice Presidents each represent 1 vote.

**8.2** For delegates from one country, voting by proxy is permitted. 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 also permitted.

**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 at the request of the BoD, the FEB, a Continental President or at the request of at least three Member Societies of three different countries. To be adopted, the amendments to the Statutes must obtain both the majority of the votes cast and the majority of the voting Societies.

**8.5** The dissolution of the FISM can be decided by vote during 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 spend the funds of the FISM.

**ARTICLE 9 Finance**

**9.1** The financial assets of the FISM consist, among others, of:

- 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 donations;
- benefits from any other legal source of income.

The assets shall be utilized to cover the expenses of the FISM and to build up 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 approved by the General Assembly.

The contribution shall be proportional to the number of members of a Member Society. The contribution and the admission fee must 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 provided that it 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 by the General Assembly, a Magic Society will automatically become a Member Society of the Continental Division of the continent where the Society is based.
- 10.2** New applications for admission to the FISM must be forwarded to the International President before the 1<sup>st</sup> of January of each year.
- 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 favor 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 to pay the contribution in full and in good time.
- 10.5** The BoD will be in charge of gathering 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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, among others, of:
- (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
  - (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 BoD 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 by a written legal agreement between the BoD 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 include:
- a copy of the accepted venue and the reservation of the planned premises;
  - a detailed budget for the Convention;
  - a list of planned activities;
  - the name of the person in charge of organizing the Convention and of the person who would replace him in case of unavailability or emergency;
  - 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 duly respect the supervision of the FISM BoD and of the “FISM Contest Rules and Procedures”;
  - an undertaking 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 and time that at least two members of the BoD must visit and validate the planned premises (venue) and examine the hotel accommodation and facilities in order to be able to report to the General Assembly. Should serious reasons or exceptional circumstances necessitate a change of venue by the organizer, it is mandatory that the FISM BoD be promptly notified. A member of the FISM BoD or an appointed delegate must visit the proposed new venue swiftly to assess its suitability. Following this assessment, the delegate is required to report all relevant details of the new venue to the General Assembly.
- 11.6** Immediately following the conclusion of the Championship, the Host Society shall transfer a payment of 1,5% (one and a half percent) of the gross convention fees directly to the FISM bank account.
- 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 digital arrangement for the jury voting system, 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 such to the sole judgment of the BoD.
- 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. In case of a deficit the International President is authorized to have the aforementioned expenses, or part of them, deducted from the 1,5% payment as mentioned in Article 11.6.
- 11.9** If the FISM World Championship of Magic should end in a final deficit, the FISM could waive the claim on the 1.5% pay over.

#### **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 who can be part of a Continental Magic Convention, which will have to abide by the same standards as those 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 BoD and shall be supervised by the relevant Continental President. The organizer, who can be a Member Society or a Professional Convention Organizer with the help of a Member Society, must 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 recorded in a written legal agreement between the BoD 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 the rules of Member Societies – Cancellation of Membership – Disciplinary decisions**

- 13.1** Member Societies must inform the BoD and the Continental President of any alteration to their rules or organization occurred 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 any funds of the FISM.
- 13.3** The General Assembly, in response to the application of the BoD or of the FEB or of at least two Member Societies, each from a different country, may determine that a Member Society should be subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion. A disciplinary demand from Member Societies must state the specific grounds upon which it is based and must be in possession of the BoD at least four months before the General Assembly convenes. The International President will inform the Member Society concerned of such a notice in order that it will be able to defend itself against the said demand. 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 (See Article 4.2) is not fully operational, all matters related to the Membership Societies can be dealt with by the BoD striving to act in the best interest of the FISM.