



UIAA

International Mountaineering and
Climbing Federation

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

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I. LEGAL FORM OF THE ASSOCIATION

Article 1

- 1) The "Union Internationale des Associations d'Alpinisme" (hereinafter UIAA), founded at Chamonix on 27 August, 1932, is the international association of mountaineering (including climbing and mountain sports) organisations. It functions in accordance with these Articles of Association and is governed by the provisions of the Swiss Civil Code (Art. 60 and subsequent Articles).
- 2) These Articles are supplemented by Standing Rules, which are appended hereto and which may be referred to in these Articles.

II. SEAT

Article 2

- 1) The seat of the UIAA is in Bern, Switzerland.
- 2) The headquarters and the secretariat of the UIAA may be located in a country other than Switzerland, upon the decision of the Management Committee.

III. PURPOSES AND TASKS

Article 3

The UIAA will:

- a) Consolidate and improve its position as the worldwide representative of all mountaineering associations, without interfering in the internal matters of its member associations, independently of any political, governmental, philosophical or denominational influence and without financial gain;
- b) Promote, develop and regulate international activities and participate actively in the Olympic Movement;
- c) Assist member federations with international mountaineering and mountain sports issues; it seeks solutions to all fundamental problems of international importance;
- d) Serve as a permanent forum for member federations and seek durable relations between its associated member associations;
- e) Promote and develop mountaineering, climbing and mountain sports, as activities with specific high human and social values, especially for youth, through education and training;
- f) Urge its member associations to extend to the members of other member associations the benefits granted to their own members according to the principle of reciprocity;
- g) Encourage the development of best practice in mountaineering and other mountain sports;
- h) Research into and distribute information on mountain medicine;
- i) Specify safety standards for mountaineering equipment and techniques;
- j) Promote responsible access and conservation of mountain areas and promote awareness of, and respect for, the environment among all users of mountain terrain;
- k) Liaise with other relevant organisations;
- l) Encourage the involvement in its organisation of women, athletes and representatives from all continents; in case of necessity the General Assembly can establish quotas of minimum representation.

IV. OPERATING PRINCIPLES

Article 4

- 1) The UIAA encourages, develops and supports the practice of all mountaineering and mountain sports in the international world wide field. It represents mountaineering to all international organisations.
- 2) The UIAA governs and develops mountaineering sports which are recognised by the General Assembly in the full respect of the other International federations' rights.
- 3) The UIAA supports regional and/or continental organisations upon request of any such organisations, but within the limits and under the rules decided by the General Assembly.

- 4) The UIAA will concentrate its policies and activities at a global level. All matters which could be handled by member associations should be done by those.
- 5) The UIAA shall not undertake any activity which is more effectively done by its member associations.
- 6) The UIAA will comply with the rules or regulations relating to anti-doping rules set by the International Olympic Committee and other appropriate international organizations.
- 7) Any form of discrimination with regard to a country or a person on grounds of race, religion, politics, gender or otherwise is incompatible with UIAA.

V. MEMBERS

Article 5

- 1) The UIAA has the following members:
 - a) *Active members* (with voting rights): any mountaineering association of national importance and with significant membership can become a member with voting rights. For each country, only one mountaineering association has the right of vote.
 - b) *Associate members* without voting rights with the exception of the right to vote in financial matters (in accordance with article 10): further mountaineering associations of a country may become members without voting rights provided they are of national or relevant regional importance. A decision on the admission of such associations will only be made after consultation with the member association with the voting rights of the relevant country and having due regard to that association's comments.
 - c) *Honorary members*: persons of particular merit to the UIAA, to international mountaineering or to preservation of the mountain environment may be elected as honorary members. They have no right to vote.
 - d) *Observer members*: national, multinational, transregional or other mountaineering organisations and institutions that are engaged in the study of mountains, mountain protection or similar activities may be admitted as observer members without the right to vote.
 - e) *Unit members*: International competition federations with their own juridical personality which include the name "UIAA" in their names if the Plenary Assembly of the Unit member approves, and act in the spirit of, and in accordance with, the statutes of the UIAA can become unit members. Unit members have no voting rights, but have a guaranteed Vice-President seat on the Executive Board. Unit members must pay an annual membership fee which is fixed by the General Assembly. UIAA will support the unit members and act for them towards other international organisations. Representation to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the related organisations is the task of the UIAA President with the President of the Unit member.
- 2) Statutes and activities of all member associations may not contradict the Articles of Association of the UIAA.
- 3) The Standing Rules may state further criteria for admission to membership.

Article 6

Obligations of Members

- 1) The members of the UIAA have the following obligations:
 - a) All member associations and other members shall comply with these Articles of Association and are obliged to comply with appropriate resolutions adopted by the UIAA bodies.
 - b) The members agree to respect their mutual autonomy and in no way to harm the development of the other members. This obligation has to be strictly observed by foreign sections as well as by their parent association. In particular, the members cannot found sections abroad without the expressed permission of the national association representing the concerned country within the UIAA.
 - c) All member associations and unit members shall pay their membership fees in full within the period fixed for payment.
- 2) *Admission fee*: to be paid only once to obtain initial membership; this admission fee will be lost with the membership's loss;
- 3) *Membership fee*: the fees to be paid by all members will be fixed by the General Assembly. The calculation methods will be determined in the Standing Rules.
- 4) All member associations shall report annually to the UIAA Office, with appropriate documentation such as an annual report or accounts, the number of their individual members as of the end of the prior calendar year. At request of the

Treasurer, membership statistics must be provided in English. Individual members are counted as those physical persons who are registered members of the member association and/or its associated clubs or federations.

- 5) Member associations that do not have direct or indirect physical members shall be treated as member associations with 4,001 physical members.
- 6) If any member association, despite written reminder, does not comply with Article 6.4 its number of members will be determined at the reasonable discretion of the Management Committee.

VI. BODIES

Article 7

The UIAA functions through the following bodies, each with separately defined powers and duties:

- a) General Assembly
- b) Management Committee
- c) Executive Board
- d) Auditors
- e) Court
- f) Commissions

VII. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 8

- 1) The General Assembly is the supreme body of the UIAA. It convenes every year. Organisation of the General Assembly shall be entrusted alternately to one of the member associations.
- 2) Every member association is entitled to be represented at the General Assembly.
- 3) Notice calling a General Assembly must be sent to all member associations at least three months prior to the date set for that General Assembly.
- 4) The Executive Board must call an extraordinary General Assembly on request of the Management Committee or on written application of one-fifth of the member associations entitled to vote. Such a General Assembly must be convened within three months of the date a valid request has been made and the full agenda must be sent not later than two months before the date set. Any such General Assembly will be located and organised by the Executive Board.

Article 9

Powers of the General Assembly

The General Assembly has the following duties and powers:

- a) to elect and dismiss the President, the members of the Executive Board, the members of the Management Committee, the members of the Court and the Auditors;
- b) to fix membership and admission fees;
- c) to decide on admission and expulsion of members on the recommendation of the Management Committee, neither such decision requiring justification;
- d) to approve of plans for future activities;
- e) to elect Honorary Members (with the requirement that there are no votes against the proposal);
- f) to adopt and amend the Articles of Association and to dissolve the UIAA, such decisions needing a quorum and majority as described in Article 10);
- g) to adopt and amend the Standing Rules;
- h) to adopt and amend Regulations
- i) to receive, discuss and approve the President's report;
- j) to review and approve the annual accounts after having heard the report of the auditors and to give discharge to the Management Committee

- k) to approve the budget
- l) to decide which sports the UIAA recognises and governs;
- m) to make a final decision on the acceptance of the text of any declaration to be published in the name of the UIAA;
- n) to make a final decision about all questions presented to it by other bodies of the UIAA;
- o) to decide all matters which no other body is competent to decide.

Article 10

Voting Rights

- 1) At any General Assembly, each member association shall be represented by one delegate, who may be assisted by one or two advisors.
- 2) In general matters the member associations, entitled to vote, have 1 (one) vote.
- 3) In matters concerned with membership and admission fees (Article 9 b), annual accounts (Article 9 j) and budget (Article 9 k) all member associations have the following voting rights :

Up to 1,000 individual members		1 vote
1,001 to 3,500	“	2 votes
3,501 to 9,000	“	3 votes
9,001 to 16,000	“	4 votes
16,001 to 30,000	“	5 votes
30,001 to 42,000	“	6 votes
42,001 to 61,000	“	7 votes
61,001 to 95,000	“	8 votes
95,001 to 135,000	“	9 votes
135,001 to 175,000	“	10 votes
175,001 to 215,000	“	11 votes
215,001 to 256,000	“	12 votes
256,001 to 340,000	“	13 votes
340,001 to 440,000	“	14 votes
440,001 to 540,000	“	15 votes
540,001 to 640,000	“	16 votes
640,001 to 740,000	“	17 votes
more than 740,000	“	18 votes

- 4) If several member associations of the same nation are members of the UIAA, the member association entitled to vote is designated as follows:
 - a) by decision taken at the time of admission by the General Assembly;
 - b) if no such decision was taken, the right to vote is held by the member association that first joined the UIAA,
 - c) by voluntary agreement between the member associations in question, the right to vote may be attributed deviating from a) or b) above. Such agreement is to be communicated in writing to the President prior to the General Assembly.

A review of national membership and entitlement to vote can be decided by the General Assembly with a qualified majority.

- 5) A member association which has not paid its dues in full prior to the General Assembly is not entitled to exercise any vote.
- 6) Any member association may be represented by the delegate of another member association being duly entitled to vote by means of a written proxy. Such proxies must be submitted to the Office of the UIAA no later than 10 days prior to the meeting. One delegate may not represent more than two other member associations at the same time.
- 7) Amendment of these Articles of Association and dissolution of the UIAA may only be considered if such items are fully described in the agenda circulated prior to the General Assembly and if at least half of the member associations with voting rights are present or represented. To be adopted, such items must receive the approval of two thirds of the votes cast.
- 8) For all other decisions of the General Assembly there is no quorum. Decisions are taken by a majority of votes cast.

- 9) Voting at the General Assembly is conducted by show of hands. Upon the request of any delegate, supported by at least one other delegate, any vote must be taken by secret written ballot.
- 10) Decisions of the General Assembly may also be made by written or electronic correspondence, in accordance with Standing Rules approved by the General Assembly.
- 11) Any member association may contest resolutions of the General Assembly that violate the law, these Articles of Association or the Standing Rules, and to which it has not consented, within one month of receiving notice thereof, by appeal to the Court at the seat of the UIAA. For member associations not present or represented at the General Assembly, the sending of the official UIAA Bulletin containing the minutes of the General Assembly to the last known address of the member association shall constitute the start of the period of one month mentioned above.

Article 11

Agenda and the Right to Introduce Proposals

- 1) Items for inclusion on the agenda of any General Assembly may be presented by:
 - a) any member association;
 - b) the Management Committee;
 - c) the Executive Board;
 - d) the Auditors, within the bounds of their competence;
 - e) any President of a UIAA Commission within the bounds of his or her competence
- 2) Any such item shall be submitted to the UIAA Office at least twelve weeks before the General Assembly.
- 3) The full agenda shall be sent to the individual member associations at least eight weeks before the General Assembly.
- 4) Upon affirmative vote of no less than two-thirds of the votes cast in accordance with Article 10, the General Assembly itself may add items to the agenda of any meeting. Additional items shall be considered at the end of the agenda.

VIII. THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Article 12

The Management Committee shall consist of the following officers:

- a) President
- b) Vice-President
- c) Representative of each unit member, who shall be a Vice-President;
- d) Treasurer
- e) General Secretary
- f) the member (or members) of the Executive Board elected under Article 18 e)
- g) three representatives from the five largest Member associations
- h) one representative from each continent (North America, Central and South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, Oceania)
- i) three to five representatives elected by the General Assembly.

Article 13

- 1) Candidates standing for election to any position in the Management Committee shall be nominated by the member association of which he or she is a member.
- 2) The members of the Management Committee are personally elected by the General Assembly for a term of four years.
- 3) Management Committee members are eligible for re-election for two further consecutive terms.
- 4) If any person so elected fails to attend two consecutive meetings, the General Assembly can declare his or her seat vacant.

Article 14

The Management Committee is responsible for implementing all the policy directives and decisions made by the General Assembly. This includes in particular:

- a) to prepare the agenda of the General Assembly;
- b) to prepare the annual accounts (consisting of the profit and loss statement and the balance sheet);
- c) to make recommendations to the General Assembly about:
 - 1) the long-term strategies of the UIAA;
 - 2) regulations and rules to be decided by the General Assembly;
 - 3) the admission and expulsion of member associations;
- d) to decide upon the creation and dissolution and the tasks of Commissions and to elect a President and Vice President of each Commission upon recommendation of the Commission itself;
- e) to recommend any proposed changes to these Articles of Association;
- f) to make recommendations on the terms and conditions of contracts to be concluded with third parties
- g) to decide on membership issues between General Assemblies
- h) to decide the official means of information of the UIAA.

Article 15

The Management Committee will meet at least twice a year. The organisation of its meetings shall be entrusted alternately to one of the member associations.

Article 16

The Agenda for the Management Committee meetings shall be prepared by the Executive Board. However, any member of the Management Committee is entitled to present proposals for the agenda. Such proposals must be submitted, with relevant documentation, at least five weeks before the date set for any Management Committee meeting. The full agenda shall be sent by the Executive Board to the Management Committee members at least three weeks prior to the meeting date.

Article 17

Every member of the Management Committee has one vote. All decisions of the Management Committee are taken by majority of the members present, and no voting rights may be exercised by proxy. The President has the casting vote. The quorum of the Management Committee consists of a majority of its members.

IX. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Article 18

- 1) The Executive Board shall consist of the following members, designated as follows:
 - a) President
 - b) Vice-President
 - c) Treasurer
 - d) General Secretary
 - e) up to two three other persons elected by the General Assembly
 - f) and, in addition, one representative from each unit member.
- 2) The duties and responsibilities of all members of the Executive Board except those of the President and the Representative of each unit member, will be assigned by the Executive Board internally
- 3) The Executive Board is responsible for carrying out all those routine duties and specific tasks that have to be fulfilled between meetings of the Management Committee. This includes in particular:
 - a) to undertake administrative duties and tasks;

- b) to supervise and co-ordinate the work of the Commissions;
 - c) to control finances;
 - d) to initiate and undertake negotiations with third parties.
- 4) All statements and contracts which bind the UIAA must be signed by the President and one other member of the Executive Board. In case of absence, the President may delegate to another member of the Executive Board. The Executive Board can determine other persons in the office with specific authorisation to sign and regulate the kind of signatory power.
 - 5) The Executive Board is responsible for the functioning of the administrative office of the UIAA, and appointing and removing staff employed.

Article 19

- 1) The Executive Board meets as often as business requires. Decisions are taken by a simple majority, and the President shall have a casting vote in case of a tie.
- 2) The Executive Board may take decisions by correspondence and/or by any other means of communication. To be valid, decisions taken in this way have to be approved by a minimum of four members.

Article 20

X. THE PRESIDENT

- 1) The President represents the UIAA in all external matters. He or she chairs all meetings of the General Assembly, the Management Committee and the Executive Board.
- 2) The President, or his or her nominee from the Management Committee or the Executive Board, is entitled to attend and participate in all Commission meetings, but without the right to vote.
- 3) The President may delegate various aspects of his or her duties to other members of the Management Committee or to the administrative staff.
- 4) In case of death, disability or resignation of the President, one of the Vice-Presidents shall assume his or her duties until the next General Assembly. Should the Vice-President in turn be unable to fulfil his or her obligations, the other Vice-President or the member of the Executive Board who has served on the Board the longest shall assume his or her duties and convene an extraordinary General Assembly in order to elect appropriate replacements.

XI. THE AUDITORS

Article 21

The General Assembly shall appoint two individual auditors and one substitute for a period of four years. The auditors and the substitute are eligible for reappointment. They shall audit the accounts, report in writing to the General Assembly and make an application to give discharge to the Treasurer and the Management Committee.

XII. THE COURT

Article 22

- 1) The General Assembly shall elect 3 to 5 members to the UIAA Court.
- 2) The UIAA Court decides its own regulations about:
 - a) conflicts of competence and other possible disputes between the UIAA, UIAA Members and bodies;
 - b) disputes between UIAA member associations.

XIII. COMMISSIONS

Article 23

- 1) The Management Committee may appoint Commissions for special tasks or to serve in fields requiring specific expertise. The mandate of each Commission shall be reviewed by the Management Committee at least once every four years to determine its continued validity and effectiveness.
- 2) The Commissions have both an advisory function to the Management Committee and a duty to perform the tasks assigned to them. Every Commission shall submit annually, through the UIAA Office, a report describing its activities in the previous year and its program for the current year. The dead-line for submitting such reports shall be set by the Executive Board. Every Commission shall also submit its accounts and budget in a manner to be prescribed by the Treasurer
- 3) The Presidents of the Commissions may attend the Management Committee meetings preceding the annual General Assemblies as well as these General Assemblies.
- 4) Members of all Commissions shall serve without compensation for renewable terms of four years. Every member association has the right to propose nominees. The names of all nominees shall be submitted to the Management Committee.
- 5) All members of all Commissions shall have one vote in their Commission meeting.
- 6) All Commissions shall organize their own work. Each Commission will recommend to the Management Committee the President and the Vice President to be appointed to that Commission.
- 7) Members of the Management Committee may take part in the work of the Commissions, as permanent liaison officers, with no voting rights.

XIV. MISCELLANEOUS

Article 24

Voluntary Functions

- 1) The activities of all bodies or Commissions of the UIAA are conducted without compensation to the individuals who serve thereon, unless authorised otherwise by a specific Article of Association, Standing Rule or vote of the General Assembly.
- 2) The expenses of all those who serve on any body or Commission of the UIAA with the exception of those of the members of the Executive Board shall be borne by the member association that the individual represents, unless authorised otherwise by the Standing Rules or specific vote of the General Assembly.

Article 25

Minutes

- 1) Accurate minutes shall be kept of all meetings of all UIAA bodies and Commissions. For any meeting of each such body or Commission a minute-keeper, who does not need to be a member of that body, shall be designated. Upon their approval, the presiding member of that body and the minute-keeper shall sign all such minutes, and a copy shall be made available to every member of the relevant body and the UIAA Office (for the Management Committee).
- 2) The minutes of the General Assemblies and Management Committee meetings shall be published on the UIAA website.

Article 26

Financial

- 1) All planned UIAA revenues and expenditures shall be reconciled in the annual budget and all UIAA bodies and Commissions shall be obliged to conform to the budget approved by the General Assembly.
- 2) All dues receivable from the member associations must be paid in full by the end of April of each calendar year.
- 3) The financial year of the UIAA shall be the calendar year.

Article 27

Withdrawal of Members

- 1) Any member association wishing to terminate its membership at the end of a year must inform the UIAA Office in writing before the first of August of that year. Fees for the current year remain payable in full.
- 2) Member associations which, despite warning, act in a manner disruptive of, or contrary to, these Articles of Association or to the harmony and best interests of the UIAA, will be expelled by vote of the General Assembly on recommendation of the Management Committee. In addition, member associations which have not complied with their obligation to pay dues will be expelled by resolution of the General Assembly.

Article 28

Liability

The UIAA is only liable for obligations of the association itself. The personal liability of every member for obligations of the UIAA is excluded.

Article 29

Dissolution

In case of the dissolution of the UIAA, all its assets shall be liquidated and the balance, after payment of all debts, shall be transferred to an institution with the same or comparable purposes. A distribution of the assets among the member associations is excluded.

Article 30

Language

- 1) The official language for the UIAA is English.
- 2) Delegates in the General Assembly may speak in their own language, provided they arrange, at their own cost, for their speeches to be translated into English.

Article 31

Publications

- 1) The UIAA website is the official means of information of the UIAA.
- 2) Communications within and between the different bodies of UIAA and with the members will be conducted by electronic means, provided they are reliable and effective.

Article 32

Enactment

These Articles of Association and their complementary Standing Rules will come into effect on January 1, 2009.



Mike Mortimer
President



Jan Bonding
Secretary General

STANDING RULES

1. Mandate

No person serving on any UIAA body, except members of the Executive Board, shall continue to occupy any such position if his or her parent association revokes such mandate.

2. Admission criteria

- 1) Prior to full admission to the UIAA, any applicant association must demonstrate with credible evidence the association's existence for a minimum of two years.
- 2) In the case that an applicant association is a split-off of a member organisation, and the application is submitted within five years of said secession, the existing member association must be consulted and has the right to veto the admission within this period of five years.
- 3) The applicant association has to provide all information in the official language of the UIAA, and in the format as required by the Executive Board.
- 4) Applications will only be dealt with after a deposit of SFr 500.-- (Five-hundred Swiss Francs) by the applicant association. In case of admission, this amount will be credited to the fees due to the UIAA by the association. In case of rejection of the admission request, SFr 250.- (Two-hundred-fifty Swiss Francs) will be returned to the applicant association.

3. Membership fees.

- 1) The membership fees are based on the following principles:
 - a) fees are based on the number of members of each association;
 - b) the following levels are determined as in the following table, with a factor of increase between each level of 4 (four);
 - c) minimum membership fee is determined with a minimum of Swiss francs 1.100;
 - d) for each change of level fees are multiplied by a factor of 1.6;
 - e) linear interpolation will be used within each level
 - f) between each level there will be linear interpolation

levels	number of members		membership fees (CHF)	
	from	to	minimum	maximum
1	0	300	1.100	1.100
2	301	1.000	1.101	2.200
3	1.001	4.000	2.201	3.520
4	4.001	16.000	3.521	5.632
5	16.001	64.000	5.633	9.011
6	64.001	256.000	9.012	14.418
7	256.001	1.024.000	14.419	23.068

- 2) For financial reasons or other causes, a variation factor in form of a global percentage may be applied to the above fees if approved by the General Assembly.

4. Bulletin

The Board will decide on the number of copies of the Bulletin a member association will receive, taking into account the number of members of each association.

5. Transition Rules

These Articles of Association and their complementary Standing Rules will come into effect commencing on January 1, 2009.