

Statutes of the International Association of Rural Health and Medicine (IARM)

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Article 1: NAME

The International Association of Rural Health and Medicine (IARM) was originally founded under the name of the "International Association of Agricultural Medicine and Rural Health (IAAMRH)" in 1961. The name was changed to the "International Association of Rural Health and Medicine" in 2009.

Article 2: OBJECTIVES

The IARM is an independent association of rural health experts from different scientific disciplines. In accordance with the WHO goal of "Health for all in the 21st century", it aims at sustainable improvements for people living in rural and remote areas in the following fields:

- Health of the general population
- Rural occupational health
- Environmental health.

Article 3: TASKS

To achieve these aims, the tasks of the association are as follows:

1. to publish professional journals and publications;
2. to organize academic conferences;
3. to formulate the Association's official responses to professional questions;
4. to provide professional advice and opinion to governmental or social organizations at the national and/or international level, upon request or by the Executive Board's decision;
5. to collaborate with experts and organizations as necessary in undertaking various tasks for realizing the objectives of the Association.

Article 4: MEMBERSHIP

The Association does not offer membership and thus does not collect dues. Anyone who agrees with the objectives of the Association may participate in its activities. However, those whose participation is reviewed but not approved by the Executive Board may not do so.

Article 5: EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

- 5.1 The following executive members are appointed in accordance with the objectives and tasks of the Association Board Members: up to 10 members
- 5.2 The Board Members include a President, a President Elect, three Vice Presidents, and a Secretary General.
- 5.3 The term of office of the Board Members is 3 years, and a re-election is held in a year when an academic conference is held. Reappointment is not prohibited. If a re-election due to term expiration does not coincide with a conference year, the Executive Board shall hold a discussion and may change the term of office by a majority vote.
- 5.4 The Board Members remain in office until the next election. If a member retires during the term of office, the full Board elects a substituting member for the remaining term of office. The term of office of the substituting member is the predecessor's remaining term.

Article 6: ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

- 6.1 Board Members are elected by signed ballot at an Executive Board meeting. However, if it is difficult to hold a signed ballot election (e.g., because the meeting is held online), an alternative method may be used upon consent of all attending Board Members.
- 6.2 The chairperson of a Board meeting convened to elect Board Members is chosen from among the attending Board Members. The Board meeting proceeds if it is attended by a majority of the Board Members.
- 6.3 Each Board Member has one vote. Proxy voting is prohibited. Decisions are made by a simple majority of valid votes cast. Abstentions are not taken into account.
- 6.4 The President Elect is chosen by resolution of the Executive Board.
- 6.5 The President Elect, Vice President, and Secretary General are elected in that order.

A candidate who received more than half of the valid votes cast is elected.

- 6.6 At the same time as the election of executive members, the Congress President Elect is chosen from among the Board Members. In the case of a single candidate, a vote of confidence is held. In the case of multiple candidates or no candidate, the method described in Article 6, Section 1 is used. Consent must be obtained from the person who is elected Congress President Elect by a signed ballot election.

Article 7: DUTIES

- 7.1 The President represents the Association in dealing with matters involving Third Parties.
- 7.2 In the absence of the President, the President Elect represents the Association.
- 7.3 The Vice Presidents assist the President.
- 7.4 If the President unable to perform the aforementioned duties, the President Elect or a Vice President performs the duties on the President's behalf.
- 7.5 The duties of the Secretary General are to
- provide operational support for the Association;
 - summon and organize Executive Board meetings in cooperation with the President;
 - keep the minutes of the Board meetings and distribute them to the Board Members;
 - ensure implementation of Board resolutions;
 - represent the Association in dealing with matters that involve Third Parties and are delegated to the Secretary General.
- 7.6 The Congress President organizes and manages the next international scientific conference of the Association. The Congress President is responsible for all administrative and financial aspects of the conference.

Article 8: EXECUTIVE BOARD

- 8.1 The Executive Board consists of Board Members.
- 8.2 The Executive Board is the Association's decision-making body and executes all operations and administrative tasks.
- 8.3 The Executive Board meets at least once a year. An online meeting is permissible. During periods between Board meetings, the President and the Secretary General are responsible for the operation of the Association. They may consult with other executive members, if necessary. The President reports on their activities at the next

Board meeting.

- 8.4 The Executive Board can pass a binding resolution if more than one-third of its members are present.
- 8.5 The President convenes Executive Board meetings. The President serves as chairperson of a Board meeting. However, in the absence of the President, the chairperson is chosen from among the attending Board Members.
- 8.6 Proceedings of an Executive Board meeting shall be recorded in minutes.

Article 9: SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat coordinates the schedule of Executive Board meetings in consultation with the Secretary General and, if necessary, with advice from the President.

Article 10: COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

- 10.1 Collaborating Organizations/Associations shall have reciprocal arrangements with the IARM. If a Collaborating Organization invites the IARM to become a member of its executive committee/board, the IARM shall reciprocate the invitation. If the Collaborating Organization offers any other position (e.g., observer of its executive committee), the IARM shall also offer the same and equal reciprocal arrangement.
- 10.2 Such an arrangement does not apply to any UN, WHO, ILO, or similar organizations. Their official representatives shall always be invited to join the Executive Board as official advisory members.

Article 11: REVISING THE STATUTES

- 11.1 Amendments to these statutes require approval from at least three-fourths of the Executive Board Members.
- 11.2 Amending the Association's objectives requires the presence of a majority of Board Members at the Executive Board meeting. If the quorum is not reached, another Board meeting may be held, or votes may be cast by email or postal mail.

Article 12: DISSOLUTION

The dissolution of the Association shall proceed when it is no longer capable of achieving its objectives. A secret ballot is held at an Executive Board meeting, and the dissolution is decided by a two-third majority of the Board. The ballot shall not be held unless every

Board Member has been given three months' notice in writing of the intention to dissolve the Association.

Article 13: SIGNATURES

All documents originating from the Association shall be signed by the President or his/her representative, except for those related to the matters delegated to the Secretary General.

Article 14: LIABILITY

Executive member of the Association shall not be personally liable for the commitments of the Association.