



Confédération Internationale
des Accordéonistes – CIA
Member of the International Music Council IMC
Official NGO Partner of UNESCO

Confédération
Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA)

STATUTES

STATUTES OF THE CONFÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES ACCORDÉONISTES (CIA) Founded 1935

01. NAME AND DEFINITION

- (a) The Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) (herein after referred to as the "Confederation" or CIA) is a Confederation of member national associations or in the absence of such member national associations, a similar group or individuals interested in the accordion may hold membership in the CIA.
- (b) The Confederation is politically, religiously and racially neutral.
- (c) The Confederation was originally constituted in PARIS in 1935 as the "ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES ACCORDEONISTES", the name being changed to "CONFÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES ACCORDÉONISTES" (CIA) at the General Assembly Congress in LAUSANNE on May 29, 1948.

02. ACTIVITIES, AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- (a) The Confederation is a member of the International Music Council IMC (an official NGO partner of UNESCO).
- (b) The Confederation encourages and promotes an annual International Competition (Coupe Mondiale) in different countries, consisting solely of competitors sent by the Premier Voting Members. Only in countries without a Premiere Voting Member, may a competitor enter without an association approval.
- (c) The Confederation seeks to coordinate, promote and encourage through the national associations, accordion activities throughout all the countries of the world.
- (d) The Confederation works to promote worldwide development of interest in the accordion, and in particular advancement of the accordion at higher educational levels in Academies, Colleges, Universities, Conservatories and Schools of Music.
- (e) The Confederation encourages research activities, conferences, competitions, music camps, master classes etc. throughout the world.
- (f) The Confederation encourages recordings, new music literature for the accordion, concert tours and appearances of Coupe Mondiale winners and other accomplished players.
- (g) The Confederation encourages formation of a national association or group interested in the accordion in any country where none exists.

03. HEADQUARTERS

The Headquarters of the Confederation shall be at the office of the Secretariat or such place as the General Assembly of Delegates Congress shall determine.

04. MEMBERSHIP

The classes of Confederation membership are:

- Premiere Voting Membership
- Voting Membership
- Corresponding Membership
- Supporting Membership
- Honorary Membership

Applications for membership are to be submitted to the Secretariat for consideration and possible acceptance by the General Assembly.

(A) PREMIERE VOTING MEMBERSHIP

One member national accordion organization from each country.

The historical exception of the Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International (ATG) and the American Accordionists' Association (AAA) sharing Confederation membership shall continue.

- (i) Active for at least three (3) years
- (ii) Providing a clearly defined published procedure for Coupe Mondiale entry for all accordionists of that country. All Coupe Mondiale entries must be approved by the Premiere Voting Member.
- (iii) Maintains active participation within the Confederation with delegates attending a Confederation Congress at least every three (3) years.
- (iv) Where an application for Premiere Voting Membership would supercede a Voting Member(s), the Premiere Voting Member applicant must show to the satisfaction of the CIA Executive that they have offered participation to the existing Voting Member(s).

(B) VOTING MEMBERSHIP

In the absence of a Premiere Voting Member, groups such as Associations, Universities, Conservatories, Institutes, Colleges or Music Schools.

- (i) Up to three (3) Voting Members may be accepted from each country.
- (ii) Coupe Mondiale entrants from a country with a Voting Member(s) have the choice to enter through the Voting Member(s) or directly to the Confederation.
- (iii) Should a national accordion organization be formed in a country with Voting Member(s) that meets Premiere Voting Membership criteria, the Voting Member(s) will be superceded. The Voting Member(s) cannot be superceded by the Premiere Voting Member applicant unless the applicant has shown to the satisfaction of the CIA Executive that they have offered participation to the existing Voting Member(s).

(C) CORRESPONDING MEMBERSHIP

Associations or similar groups such as Universities, Conservatories, Institutes, Colleges or Music Schools who wish to maintain a close and cooperative relationship with the Confederation but are unable to qualify for voting membership.

(D) SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP

Three levels of Supporting Membership are available for those wishing to make an annual contribution to the Confederation.

(E) HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Must be conferred by the General Assembly of Delegates Congress by an affirmative vote of at least two thirds of a quorum of the Premiere Voting Members and Voting Members present. Honorary members are not required to pay an annual subscription.

GENERAL

- (f) Members of the Confederation are obliged:
 - (i) To fulfill all statutory and financial obligations
 - (ii) To support the activities of the Confederation
- (g) All members of the Confederation have the right to express their ideas.
- (h) Any member who desires to resign from the Confederation must give notice in writing to the secretariat 3 (three) months before the end of the current calendar year, failing which its obligations to the Confederation will continue for a further year. Having submitted notice of resignation, the member loses membership status.
- (i) A member is deemed to have resigned from the Confederation if it fails to pay its membership fees, within 3 (three) months of the due date, provided the Confederation has sent notice by registered letter.
- (j) A member loses voting rights and may be expelled (by vote of the General Assembly) for failing to fulfill its financial or statutory obligations. Other grounds for expulsion include any act contrary to the welfare of the confederation or of unethical behavior or in violation of the statutes.
- (k) Any member who resigns or is expelled has no claim whatsoever on the funds of the Confederation.

05. MANAGEMENT OF THE CONFEDERATION

The authorities of the Confederation are:

- General Assembly of Delegates Congress
- Executive Committee
- Music Committee

All positions on the committees are unpaid.

06. GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES CONGRESS

The final authority of the Confederation in all matters shall lie with the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall consist of the delegates of each Premiere Voting Member and Voting Member. The delegates must be appointed in writing by the member they represent by filling in the official registration form and sending it by post or electronic communication to the Secretariat before the deadline date.

(A) FUNCTIONS

- (i) To determine or approve the outlines and execution of policy in connection with all the activities of the Confederation.
- (ii) To consider and approve or reject any application for membership
- (iii) To elect the officers of the Executive, Music and other committees.
- (iv) To be informed of the nominations of members of the adjudicators panel (Coupe Mondiale) and approve them for election.
- (v) To elect the honorary members of the Confederation.
- (vi) To receive and consider the reports of the committees, of the officers and of the members of the Confederation.
- (vii) To determine the amount of the annual membership fee payable by the different classes of members, and acknowledge donations offered by the supporting members of the Confederation.
- (viii) To determine and approve rules and regulations relating to any of the Confedera-

tion's activities, that are not covered by or contrary to these statutes.

- (ix) To make any alterations considered necessary or desirable to the Statutes, subject to general vote of the membership.

(B) VOTING

- (i) Only official delegates of Premiere Voting Members and Voting Members may vote at the General Assembly. Each Premiere Voting Member, even if represented by more than one delegate has twelve (12) votes on each decision. Each Voting Member, even if represented by more than one delegate, has four (4) votes on each decision.
- (ii) The officers of the Executive, Music Committee and any other committees do not have the right to vote unless they are nominated to act as an official delegate by the Premiere Voting Member or Voting Member of their country.
- (iii) Decisions will be made by a simple majority of votes of the delegates (present or proxy [see 6-c]) of the Premiere Voting Members and Voting Members present at the General Assembly. In case of an equal vote, the President will have the casting vote.

(C) QUORUM

A congress of the General Assembly is only competent to function if at least one third of the voting members are present. A CIA Premiere Voting Member or Voting Member may nominate another Premiere Voting Member or Voting Member in attendance to vote on its behalf with a proxy ballot. That Premiere Voting Member or Voting Member should inform the General Secretary in writing via post or electronic communication prior to the General Assembly, of this proxy nomination. No Premiere Voting Member or Voting Member may carry more than one proxy ballot.

(D) CONGRESS MEETINGS

- (i) A General Assembly of Delegates Congress shall be held at least once a year, usually during the northern summer or autumn. A second annual congress is scheduled during the northern winter.
- (ii) A special congress may be convened if at least one fifth of the voting members request it. The secretariat shall send notification of all Congresses at least 6 (six) weeks in advance of the date fixed. Members who wish to have suggestions considered must submit them in writing to be received by the secretariat at least 28 (twenty eight) days before the date fixed for the Congress.
- (iii) The agenda will then be sent out to the voting members.

(E) FURTHER PROCEDURES

Motions arising from discussions in General Business shall be subject to one of the following procedures prior to voting:

- (i) To refer the matter to the next General Assembly
- (ii) To ask for a postal vote, after the delegates have had a chance to report back their organizations, allowing members not present at the General Assembly to be consulted.
- (iii) To take urgency and make a decision without prior circulation to all voting members.

07. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall consist of the following officers:

- President
 - 3 (three) Vice-Presidents
 - Secretary General
 - Treasurer (secretary general and treasurer can be one person)
 - Public Relations Manager
 - Chairman of the Music Committee
 - Ambassador
- i. The officers should be chosen from official representatives of the member organizations who are outstanding musicians or representatives of the national music movements.
 - ii. The President should hold office for a term of 4 (four) years and may be re-elected for a further term of 4 (four) years. He/she may serve a maximum of 2 (two) terms as President. The officers other than the President should hold office for a term of 4 (four) years and may be re-elected.
 - iii. One Vice-President shall be nominated each year by the Member Group responsible for the organization of the annual International Competition (Coupe Mondiale).
 - iv. An Executive Committee Member may be dismissed (by vote of the General Assembly) for failing to fulfill his statutory obligations. Other grounds for dismissal may include any act contrary to the welfare of the confederation or of unethical behavior or in violation of the statutes.

(A) FUNCTIONS

- (i) To conduct the routine administration of the Confederation during the periods between the General Assembly of Delegates Congress.
- (ii) To conduct negotiations and represent the interests of the Confederation in accordance with, and subject to, the decisions of the General Assembly.

(B) MEETINGS

- (i) The members of the Executive Committee shall normally meet before the Congress opens, if necessary.
- (ii) When special circumstances require they must be consulted by post or electronic communication.

(C) VOTING

- (i) The final decision of meetings of the Executive Committee may be considered valid in the presence of: The President, one of the Vice-Presidents, Secretary General, Treasurer (if the Secretary General and Treasurer are not the same person) and the Public Relations Manager.
- (ii) Where special circumstances require consultation by post or electronic communication, and providing that all members of the Executive Committee have been consulted, decisions may be effected by post or electronic communication vote.
- (iii) Motions shall be passed by a simple majority of votes. In case of an equal vote the president shall have a casting vote.
- (iv) In major negotiations with third parties, relevant documents shall be signed by the President (or in case of necessity one of the Vice-presidents) and counter-signed by the Secretary General. The important documents by the President and the Secretary General must have the approval of the General Assembly.

08. MUSIC COMMITTEE

- i. The Music-Committee shall consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and five (5) members. The members should be outstanding musicians and accordion experts. They should hold office for a term of 4 (four) years and may be re-elected.
- ii. The Music-Committee shall report on its activities to the General Assembly of the Confederation, and it must present a written report of its activities (meetings, etc.) at each General Assembly.
- iii. A Music Committee Member may be dismissed (by vote of the General Assembly) for failing to fulfill his statutory obligations. Other grounds for dismissal may include any act contrary to the welfare of the confederation or of unethical behavior or in violation of the statutes.

(A) FUNCTIONS

- (i) To help organize, maintain and hold the music library of the Confederation.
- (ii) To prepare suggestions regarding the music activities of the Confederation.
- (iii) To consider and organize the Test Piece for the Coupe Mondiale.
- (iv) To analyze the music of the Coupe Mondiale.
- (v) To recommend to the General Assembly the nominations for the adjudicators panel.
- (vi) To approve relevant music documents of the Confederation.
- (vii) To encourage music camps, concerts, recordings and collaboration among composers, Universities, Conservatories, Colleges, Museums and Libraries.
- (viii) To encourage music research on an International level.

(B) MEETINGS

- (i) The members of the Music Committee shall normally meet before the Congress opens, if necessary.
- (ii) When special circumstances require they must be consulted by post or electronic communication.

(C) VOTING

- (i) Motions shall be passed by a simple majority of votes. In case of an equal vote the president (or in his absence the Vice-President shall have a casting vote.
- (ii) Motions passed by the Music Committee relative to the above-mentioned functions shall be accepted by the General Assembly.

09. SECRETARIAT

The Executive Committee administers the Confederation by means of its Secretariat. At the head of the Secretariat is the Secretary General. He is responsible to the Executive Committee and the General Assembly for the control and work of the Secretariat.

FUNCTIONS

- (a) To maintain the membership records of the Confederation.
- (b) To maintain and handle the financial records and books of accounts of the Confederation.
- (c) To prepare the meetings of the Executive Committee and the General Assembly.
- (d) To prepare and distribute the minutes of the meetings of the Executive committee and the General Assembly.

- (e) To prepare and distribute to the members of the Confederation important documents, bulletins, reports of events etc.
- (f) To maintain a regular flow of information among the members of the Confederation.
- (g) To handle the daily correspondence of the Confederation.
- (h) To execute or prepare any kind of work called for by the General Assembly and committees of the Confederation.
- (i) To present at each General Assembly of Delegates Congress a written report of the activities of the Executive Committee.

10. PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER

The functions of the Public Relations Manager are:

- (a) To encourage a regular flow of information among Confederation members, Academies, Colleges, Universities, Conservatories, Schools of Music, musicians and people interested in the accordion.
- (b) To publish an official Confederation Newsletter.

11. FINANCIAL

- (a) The financial year of the Confederation shall begin on January 1st of each year, unless otherwise determined by the General Assembly.
- (b) The Secretariat shall present a financial report of the Confederation at each General Assembly.
- (c) The General Assembly at the northern Summer or Autumn shall nominate two Auditors and one Deputy (who are not members of the Executive Committee) who shall audit the annual accounts of the Confederation at the following Winter Congress.
- (d) The annual membership fees (dues) payable by members shall be determined from time to time by the General Assembly and shall be payable in the first three (3) months of each year.
- (e) The expenses of the Secretariat (postage, duplicating, paper etc.) shall be paid by the Confederation. The necessary traveling expenses to the CIA Congresses and meeting of the Confederation incurred by the Secretary General (if possible for the President also) will be paid by the Confederation.
- (f) The financial liability of the Confederation is limited to its existing assets. Representatives of the Confederation should refer to its limited liability in any negotiations with third parties involving financial considerations and shall be personally responsible for any negligence in this connection.

12. GENERAL

- (a) All political, racial and religious discussions are strictly forbidden between the members at General Assemblies or at meetings of any Committees or working groups of the Confederation.
- (b) Meetings shall be conducted in English and documents shall be written in English.
- (c) These Statutes may not be altered or added to except by a General Assembly at which two thirds of the Premiere Voting Members and Voting Members are present. Any suggested alternations must be submitted to the Secretariat at least two (2) months before the date fixed for a General Assembly and the text submitted for consideration in advance to all voting members.

- (d) Dissolution of the Confederation may only be determined through a secret ballot confirmed by three-quarters of the voting members present at a General Assembly of Delegates Congress convened for that purpose. In case of dissolution any remaining funds of the Confederation shall be shared equally among the current financial Premiere Voting Members and Voting Members who shall undertake to use them for philanthropic purposes in their countries.

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Background Information

The forgoing Statutes of the CONFÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES ACCORDÉONISTES (CIA) were originally adopted by the General Assembly of Delegates Congress in Łódz (Poland) on September 23rd, 1978.

Updated by ratification of the General Assembly at the Congress in Dunajska Streda (Slovakia) on October 16th, 1996.

Updated by ratification of the General Assembly at the Congress in Alexandria, VA (USA) on August 14th, 2007.

Updated by ratification of the General Assembly at the Congress in Osimo (Italy) on September 5th, 2017.

Updated by ratification of the General Assembly at the Congress in Shenzhen (China) on August 17th, 2019.

