

INTERNAL RULES (previously called ‘Statutes’)
OF THE CONFÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES ACCORDÉONISTES (CIA)
Founded 1935

The Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes Internal Rules are authorized by Clause 11 of the Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes Statutes 2024.

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 legal entity interested in the accordion.
- (b) The Confederation is an equal opportunity organization and will not discriminate based upon age, ethnicity, ancestry, gender, national origin, disability, race, religion, sexual orientation, socioeconomic background, political or any other status prohibited by applicable law.

Being a member of the International Music Council, an official NGO partner of UNESCO, the Confederation supports the universal principles of UNESCO.

“The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) with the aim of promoting world peace and security through international cooperation in education, arts, sciences and culture.”

- (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.
- (d) In accordance with European Union legislation, to comply with the Associations Act, the Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes became a registered association. The 2024 registration is on file in Helsinki, Finland.

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 CIA encourages and promotes an annual International Competition (Coupe Mondiale) in different countries, hosted and organised by a one of its members.
- (c) The CIA 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.
- (d) The CIA encourages research activities, conferences, competitions, music camps, master classes etc. internationally.
- (e) The CIA encourages recordings, new music literature for the accordion, concert tours and appearances of Coupe Mondiale winners and other accomplished players.
- (f) The CIA encourages formation of a national association or group interested in the accordion in any country where none exists.

03. HEADQUARTERS

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

04. MEMBERSHIP

The categories 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 at either the Winter or Autumn Congress meetings.

(A) PREMIERE VOTING MEMBERSHIP

One member national accordion organization from a single 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 five (5) years
- (II) Providing a clearly defined published procedure for Coupe Mondiale entry for all accordionists of that country. The procedure and its results must be communicated with the CIA secretariat in good time before the competition. All Coupe Mondiale entries must be approved by the Premiere Voting Member of the referring country.
- (III) Maintains active participation within the CIA with delegates attending in person a CIA Congress at least every two (2) years.
- (IV) Submit an annual report of activities to the Secretariat.
- (V) Where an application for Premiere Voting Membership would supersede 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).
- (VI) The member may be asked to show proof it is legal or official entity upon request.
- (VII) Premiere Voting members who are unable to fulfil any of these obligations due to extraordinary circumstances, may coordinate with the Executive Committee for consideration. Not fulfilling the duties according the Internal Rules can be the basis for adjustment of membership status, recommended by the Executive Committee, to be voted on by the General Assembly of Delegates.

(B) VOTING MEMBERSHIP

- (I) Up to three (3) Voting Members like Associations, Universities, Conservatories, Institutes, Colleges or Music Schools may be accepted from each country not represented by a Premiere Voting Member.
- (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 superseded. The Voting Member(s) cannot be superseded 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).
- (IV) The member may be asked to show proof it is legal or official entity upon request.

(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

Supporting Membership are available for those wishing to make an annual contribution to the CIA.

(E) HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Must be conferred by the General Assembly by an affirmative vote of at least two thirds of a quorum.

GENERAL

Ref. 3§ and 4§ of the official statutes

- (F) All members of the Confederation have the right to express their ideas.
- (G) Any member who desires to resign from the Confederation must give notice in writing to the secretariat. Having submitted notice of resignation, the member loses membership status.
- (H) 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 email.
- (I) A member loses voting rights and may be expelled (by vote of the General Assembly) for failing to fulfil its financial or statutory obligations. Other grounds for expulsion include any act contrary to the welfare of the confederation or of unethical behaviour or in violation of the Internal Rules or Statutes.
- (J) 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 which will convene at the Winter and Autumn Congress meetings or as otherwise stated.
- Executive Committee elected by the General Assembly of Delegates.
- Music Committee elected by the General Assembly of Delegates.

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 in good financial standing. 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. The General Assembly shall meet at least twice annually at the Winter and Autumn Congress meetings and as otherwise convened according to these Internal Rules.

(A) FUNCTIONS

Ref. 8§, 9§, 10§ of official statutes

- (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 approve members of the adjudicators panels for the Coupe Mondiale.
- (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 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 Confederation's activities, that are not covered by or contrary to these Internal Rules.

(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.
- (IV) Voting takes place by hand-raising. A voting member may request that voting be made by secret ballot. Elections of individuals are done by secret ballot organised by the Secretariat.
- (V) Only members in good standing with fully paid membership dues have the right to vote or cast or hold a proxy at the Congress meetings.

(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 shall be held twice a year at the Winter and Autumn Congress.
- (II) Additional meeting may be organised when deemed necessary, or the executive committee considers it justified, or if at least one tenth (1/10) of the members of the association entitled to vote so requests for the handling of a matter notified by them.
- (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 allowing delegates the chance to report back their organizations and allowing members not present at the General Assembly to be consulted.
- (ii) To take urgency and make a decision without prior circulation to all voting members.

07. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Confederation's affairs are managed by The Executive Committee. It shall consist of the following officers: President and seven or eight members, including three (3) Vice Presidents, The Secretary General, Treasurer (note: the General Secretary and Treasurer may be the same person), Public Relations Manager, Ambassador and the Chairperson of the Music Committee.

Ref. 5§ in the statutes.

- I. The officers should be chosen from official representatives of the member organizations.
- II. The Congress can approve one Honorary Vice President each year nominated by the organization hosting the annual Coupe Mondiale competition.
- III. An Executive Committee Member may be dismissed by vote of the General Assembly for failing to fulfil his statutory obligations. Other grounds for dismissal may include any act contrary to the welfare of the confederation or of unethical behaviour or in violation of the statutes.
- IV. In accordance with the official Statutes, the Executive Committee will allocate one Vice President to officiate in the absence of the President.

(A) FUNCTIONS

- (I) To conduct the routine administration of the Confederation during the periods between the General Assembly of Delegates Congress meetings.
- (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 Executive Committee can independently organise regular online or in person meetings between and before each Winter and Autumn Congress.
- (II) When special circumstances require, they must be consulted by personal or electronic communication.

(C) VOTING

Votes are decided by an absolute majority. In the event of a tie, the chairperson of the meeting's vote will decide in all voting matters, except elections, where a tie will be decided by draw.

Ref. 5§ and 6§ of official statutes.

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. The Music Committee can have a secretary approved by the Executive Committee.
- 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 fulfil his statutory obligations. Other grounds for dismissal may include any act contrary to the welfare of the confederation or of unethical behaviour 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 musical programs and rules of Coupe Mondiale categories for ratification by the General Assembly.
- (IV) To analyse the musical programs of the Coupe Mondiale contestants.
- (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 Music Committee can independently organise regular in person or online meetings between and before each Winter and Autumn Congress.
- (II) When special circumstances require, they must be consulted by personal or electronic communication.

(C) VOTING

- (I) Motions shall be passed by a simple majority of votes. In case of an equal vote the Chairperson or in their absence the Vice-Chairperson shall have a casting vote.
- (II) Motions passed by the Music Committee relative to the above-mentioned functions shall be presented for ratification 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, to be 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 Secretariat.
- (j) To prepare the annual report of the Confederation for the International Music Council.

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 share and publish regularly general information of the Confederation activities.
- (c) To explain detailed procedures and information to the future Coupe Mondiale organiser and to prepare a draft and final contract between the CIA and the host organisation.

11. AMBASSADOR

The Ambassador is familiar with all aspects of the CIA operations and its initiatives and able to serve as a representative of the organization helping to advance its mission through advocacy, awareness and community engagement.

- (a) Be able to represent the CIA, articulating its goals and objectives to various audiences, including government officials, media, businesses, cultural groups and the general public.
- (b) Help promote friendly and cooperative relations between the CIA and other musical organizations.
- (c) To support the diverse CIA membership, ensuring that outreach and engagement are appropriate and effective.
- (d) Support the CIA and its various committees in their day-to-day operations and global initiatives.

12. FINANCIAL

- (a) The financial year of the Confederation shall begin on January 1st of each year.
- (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 one or 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) can be paid by the Confederation.

Ref. 7§, 10§ of official statutes and in general of the law.

13. GENERAL

- (a) The CIA follows the 5 Music Rights declared by the International Music Council.

*The Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA), as a member of the International Music Council (IMC), upholds and promotes the IMC's **Five Music Rights** — fundamental principles that guarantee access, learning, participation and fair recognition for all people through music.*

As an international confederation of national accordion associations and a member of the IMC network, the CIA aligns its events, competitions (including the Coupe Mondiale) and educational activities with these principles — promoting musical freedom, education, broad participation, professional development, and fair recognition for accordionists worldwide.

Rights

IMC's mission and objectives honour human and cultural rights as enunciated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in other relevant international covenants propagated by the United Nations, UNESCO and equivalent organisations.

Equality

In devising its actions, IMC gives equal value and respect to all musical cultures of the world.

Respect

IMC's international cooperation is based on mutual tolerance, respect and dialogue.

Comprehensiveness

As a non-governmental, non-profit organisation, IMC is independent of any individual political ideology and supports the vibrancy of music and musical life in all its aspects – artistic, economic and societal – without prejudice or partiality.



- (b) Meetings shall be conducted in English and documents shall be written in English.
- (c) The decision to change the Internal Rules must be made by a majority of at least three-fourths (3/4) of the votes cast at the Confederation's meeting. Any suggested alternations must be submitted to the Secretariat in good time before the date fixed for a General Assembly and the text submitted for consideration in advance to all voting members.

Ref. quorum 8 and 12 § of the official statutes.

Background Information

September 23rd, 1978

The forgoing Statutes of the CONFÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES ACCORDÉONISTES (CIA) were originally adopted by the General Assembly of Delegates Congress in Łódź (Poland).

October 16th, 1996

Updated by ratification of the General Assembly at the Congress in Dunajska Streda, (Slovakia).

August 14th, 2007

Updated by ratification of the General Assembly at the Congress in Alexandria, VA (USA).

September 5th, 2017.

Updated by ratification of the General Assembly at the Congress in Osimo (Italy),

August 17th, 2019

Updated by ratification of the General Assembly at the Congress in Shenzhen (China).

September 10th, 2024

The CIA's official status was adopted in two parts, the Statutes and the Internal Rules. In accordance with European Union legislation, to comply with the Associations Act, the Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes became a registered association. The 2024 registration outlined in the official 'Statutes' is on file in Helsinki, Finland. These Statutes were adopted by ratification of the General Assembly at the Congress in Castelfidardo, Italy.

March 2nd, 2025

The Internal Rules (formerly known as Statutes) were updated by ratification of the 153rd General Assembly at the Congress in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, except for section 13a, which was confirmed at the 154th General Assembly in East Sarajevo.