

# ISRM STATUTES

(Approved by the Council in a videoconference, on 17 November 2021)

## 1. NAME OF THE SOCIETY

The name of this organisation is "International Society for Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering". The abbreviation is ISRM. Throughout these Statutes, the abbreviations "ISRM" or "Society" are used.

## 2. FIELD OF ACTIVITY

The field of rock mechanics and rock engineering includes all studies of the physical, mechanical, hydraulic, thermal, chemical and dynamic behaviour of rocks and rock masses, and engineering works in rock masses, using appropriate knowledge of geology.

## 3. OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES

The objectives and purposes of the Society are:

- to encourage international collaboration and exchange of ideas and information between rock mechanics practitioners;
- to encourage teaching, research, and advancement of knowledge in rock mechanics;
- to promote high standards of professional practice among rock engineers so that civil, mining and petroleum engineering works might be safer, more economic and less disruptive to the environment.

for which purposes, the Society's activities shall include:

- encouraging the formation of National Groups and their affiliation to the Society;
- encouraging and supporting the subsequent activities of these National Groups including national and regional meetings, conferences and courses.
- holding International Congresses on rock mechanics and rock engineering themes of general interest to the majority of the membership, at intervals of about four years;
- sponsoring a co-ordinated program of International Symposia, Regional Symposia and Specialized Conferences on topics in rock mechanics and rock engineering, organised by National Groups of the Society.
- co-operating with international bodies whose aims are complementary to those of the Society provided such co-operation is to the benefit of the Society;
- forming and operating commissions and joint commissions with other societies to study and report on matters of concern to the Society;
- encouraging the preparation of internationally recognised nomenclature, codes of practice, standard tests and procedures;
- promoting international co-operation by distributing news to members and through exchanges of professionals and students, publicising bibliographic and other information services, books and periodicals, and new products and services pertaining to rock mechanics and rock engineering.

## **4. LANGUAGES**

### ***4.1 ISRM Official Languages***

- (a) English shall be the official languages of ISRM.
- (b) All communications from the Secretariat shall be in English.

### ***4.2 Languages at Congresses***

- (a) The language for an International Congress of the Society shall be English.
- (b) Bulletins, registration forms and announcements are to be written in English. Additional languages may be included at the discretion of the Organising Committee, if agreed by the ISRM Board.
- (c) Papers are to be written in English. Oral presentations are to be in English or any other language for which there is simultaneous translation into English. National Groups may request translation, at their own expense, into any language.

### ***4.3 Languages at International Symposia***

- (a) For an International Symposium of the Society, the Organising Committee is to nominate one or more languages, which, subject to approval by the Board of the Society, become the Symposium languages. One of the Symposium languages must be English.
- (b) Bulletins, registration forms and announcements are to be written in the Symposium languages.
- (c) Papers are to be written in English.
- (d) A translation into English is to be provided by the Organising Committee if oral presentations are made in a language other than English.

### ***4.4 Languages at Regional Symposia and Other Meetings***

The Board will consider linguistic, technical and administrative provisions when reviewing proposals by National Groups wishing to host an ISRM Regional Symposium or similar ISRM-sponsored meeting.

## **5. MEMBERSHIP**

### ***5.1 Composition of the Society***

Membership of the Society shall consist of Individual Members affiliated through National Groups, Corporate Members, and Corresponding Members as defined in 5.2 - 5.5 below.

### ***5.2 National Groups***

- (a) As used in these statutes, the word "country" shall include nations and dependencies which budget independently for scientific purposes, as well as any multinational groups approved by the Board.

- (b) A country shall be represented in the Society by its National Group, and shall have no more than one National Group. This shall be an organisation such as a society or a committee that represents rock mechanics and rock engineering in that country, either solely concerned with rock mechanics and rock engineering, or with rock mechanics and rock engineering as part of a broader field of scientific or engineering interest. The statutes of a National Group shall not conflict with those of the ISRM.
- (c) Each National Group shall be composed of individual members, accepted into membership according to the statutes of that particular National Group.
- (d) For a national organisation to be recognised by the Society as a National Group, it is to formally apply to the President through the Secretary General for recognition, stating that if accepted as a National Group it will:
- support the objects and purposes of the Society;
  - abide by the provisions of the ISRM Statutes and By-laws;
  - promote membership, and participation by its members in the affairs of the Society.
  - keep its members informed of ISRM international news, and provide the ISRM Secretariat with national news articles for publication.
- The letter of application should be accompanied by documents in English outlining the nature of the national organisation, and providing a copy of its statutes, a list of its officers, and information on members seeking registration as members of the Society.
- (e) Admission becomes effective on approval by the Board, and after payment of the first annual fee.

### ***5.3 Individual Members***

Individual Members are those who pay fees to the Society through a National Group. Their admission shall be decided upon by the appropriate National Group. A member may belong to more than one National Group.

### ***5.4 Corporate Members***

- (a) Corporate Members are associations, companies, and other collective bodies, interested in supporting the advancement of rock mechanics and rock engineering, that pay fees to the Society.
- (b) Corporate members can be affiliated in the Society through the National Groups or directly to the Secretariat.

### ***5.5 Corresponding Members***

- (a) Corresponding Members are individuals who pay fees directly to the Secretariat.
- (b) New applicants, before being accepted into this category, shall be offered the alternative of becoming Individual Members when a National Group exists in their country.

### ***5.6 Fellows***

- (a) The highest and most senior grade of membership is Fellow of the ISRM and is conferred on individuals, affiliated with the ISRM, who have achieved outstanding accomplishment in the field of rock mechanics and rock engineering and who have contributed to the professional community through the ISRM.
- (b) The appointment of ISRM Fellows is made by the ISRM Board.

### ***5.7 Fees***

- (a) The annual fees for National Groups, Corporate Members and Corresponding Members shall be according to a scale of fees approved by the Council from time to time.

- (b) The fees for each year are due on January 1. Fees unpaid after April 1 are in arrears.

### ***5.8 Termination of Membership***

The membership of a National Group or a Corporate or Corresponding Member may be terminated by the Board if their fees are not paid in time or if it considers there is just cause. An appeal for re-instatement may be made to the Council. Individual Membership may be terminated at the discretion of the appropriate National Group.

### ***5.9 Re-instatement of Membership***

At the discretion of the Board, National Groups, Corporate or Corresponding Members whose membership was terminated due to non-payment of fees may rejoin without penalty by paying all fees owing.

## **6. GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE SOCIETY**

The Society shall be governed and administered by a Council, a Board and a Secretariat. The Council is the supreme body of the Society.

## **7. COUNCIL OF ISRM**

### ***7.1 Composition of the Council***

Members of the Council shall include members of the Board, the Past-Presidents of the Society, and a Representative of each National Group.

### ***7.2 Duties***

The Council's duties shall include:

- electing the President and the Vice-Presidents;
- establishing the policies of the Society on administrative, financial, and technical matters;
- reviewing and approving policies for ISRM publications;
- reviewing and revising the Statutes and By-laws;
- deciding upon the scope, times and locations of the International Congresses of the Society;
- selecting the time and venue of annual General Meetings of Council from among the times and venues of sponsored Regional Symposia. The selected Symposium shall become the International Symposium of the Society;
- reviewing and approving yearly budget statements and closures of yearly accounts;
- dissolving the Society should this become necessary;
- approving temporary amendments of the Statutes and By-laws to allow smooth and continued functioning of the Society in the case of unforeseen health, safety or political events that will affect members on a world-wide scale.

### ***7.3 Meetings***

- (a) General Meetings of Council shall be held annually at the time and place of an ISRM sponsored International Symposium or Congress. Such meetings shall be convened by the Secretary General.
- (b) A Special Meeting of the Council shall be called by the President if requested by at least one third of the Council Members.

## **7.4 Voting**

- (a) Decisions of Council shall normally be made by votes taken at Council meetings. The Council may decide by mail ballot on matters requiring urgent action.
- (b) A Council meeting shall have a quorum if a simple majority of National Groups are represented directly or by a formally appointed Proxy. Rules for Representatives and Proxies are given in By-law No. 1.
- (c) Amendments to Statutes and dissolution of the Society shall require a two-thirds majority of all voting members present or represented at the meeting. Election of the President and Regional Vice-Presidents shall be governed by the special voting arrangements provided by the By-laws. All other matters shall be decided by simple majority of all voting members present or represented at the meeting.
- (d) The voting members of the Council shall be the President and those National Groups represented in person or by formal Proxy. The Secretary General, Vice-Presidents and Past-Presidents are not voting members of the Council in their own right, but may represent their respective National Groups. In accordance with By-law No. 1, regional Vice-Presidents may also carry proxies for National Groups within their regions, and the Past Presidents and the Vice Presidents at Large may also carry one proxy.
- (e) The President shall initially have one vote. Each National Group shall have one vote provided that its fees have been fully paid for the year preceding that in which the vote is taken. In the case of a tied ballot, the President shall have one additional casting vote.

## **8. BOARD OF ISRM**

### **8.1 Composition of the Board**

The Board shall be composed of the following Officers of the Society:

- the President;
- Vice-Presidents for Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe, North America and Latin America, one of whom shall also be First Vice-President;
- the Secretary General, who shall be a non-voting member;
- not more than three Vice-Presidents at Large, who may be appointed by a two-thirds majority of the Board;
- if there are two or three Vice-Presidents at Large one of these shall be from Europe;
- for the last two years of the term, the Board shall include the President-elect, who shall be a non-voting member.

### **8.2 Election and Appointment of Officers**

- (a) Council shall elect the President of the Society at a meeting two years prior to that International Congress after which he will assume office, in accordance with the provisions of these Statutes and By-law No. 2.
- (b) Council, at a meeting during an ISRM International Congress, shall elect the regional Vice Presidents of the Society in accordance with the provisions of these Statutes and By-law No. 2.
- (c) The term of office of the President and Vice-Presidents shall be approximately four years, from the day after the conclusion of one Congress, to the day of conclusion of the next Congress.

### **8.3 Duties of the Board**

The Board's duties shall include the following (see also By-law No. 6):

- administering the affairs of the Society, with the assistance of the Secretariat, and in accordance with policies established by the Council;

- managing the financial affairs of the Society, preparing and administering budgets, and accepting grants on behalf of the Society;
- deciding upon the admission of National Groups, and termination of membership of National Groups, Corporate and Corresponding Members;
- sitting as an advisory committee to review and approve details of ISRM Congresses and Symposia;
- approving the scope, time and location of the Regional Symposia and Specialized Conferences of the Society, and advising the Council on which of these are eligible to be selected as the venue for an International Symposium (see By-law No. 5).
- electing a First Vice-President who will assume the duties of the President should the President no longer be able to do so.

#### ***8.4 Duties of the President***

- (a) The President, in collaboration with other members of the Board, carries prime responsibility for the conduct of the affairs of the Society. The President's duties and responsibilities shall include:
- fostering the objectives and purposes of the Society;
  - administering the Society;
  - presiding at meetings of the Society;
  - appointing, overseeing, and co-ordinating the activities of Commissions of the Society;
  - representing the Society on international matters and at meetings of other bodies.
- (b) Should the President be unable to preside at an ISRM Congress or Symposium, or to represent the Society in other matters of importance, he/she shall appoint a Vice-President to act in his place.

#### ***8.5 Duties of the First Vice-President***

The First Vice-President shall support the work of the President in fostering the objectives and purposes of the Society, deputise for the President, and take over the Presidency in the event of the President's death or incapacity, as prescribed in these Statutes and in the By-laws.

#### ***8.6 Duties of the Vice-Presidents***

The Regional Vice-Presidents shall foster the aims and purposes of the Society in their Region, and shall represent and promote the interest of their Region. All Vice Presidents shall share responsibility for the conduct of the affairs of the Society as prescribed in these Statutes and in the By-laws.

#### ***8.7 Duties of the President-elect***

The President-elect shall attend Board meetings and participate in the activities of the Board with a view to developing an understanding of the basis for Board decisions and other activities of the Society.

#### ***8.8 Meetings***

- (a) General Meetings of the Board shall normally be held annually at the time and place of an ISRM sponsored International Symposium or Congress. Such meetings shall be convened by the Secretary General.
- (b) A Special Meeting of the Board may be called at any time by the President or any four Vice-Presidents, who shall specify the time, location, and agenda.
- (c) A Board meeting shall have a quorum if at least half the voting members are present.

### **8.9 Voting**

- (a) The Board decides by a simple majority of those present. The Secretary General has a voice but not a vote. In the case of a tied vote, the President may cast the deciding vote.
- (b) The Board, at the discretion of the President, may be asked to decide by mail ballot of all its members. Any Board member may place a veto or a conditional veto on the mail ballot, in which case the matter is to be included on the agenda at the next Board meeting.
- (c) All actions of the Board may be subject to review and ratification by the Council at the discretion of the Council.

### **8.10 Board Committees**

The Board may decide to form Board Committees to deal with special issues. These committees shall be chaired by a Board member and all members shall be members of the Society. The number of members should normally not exceed five.

## **9. ISRM SECRETARIAT**

### **9.1 Composition of the Secretariat**

The Secretariat shall consist of the Secretary General and administrative and clerical personnel.

### **9.2 Duties of the Secretary General**

The Secretary General shall conduct the formal correspondence and business activities of the Society at the international level and shall manage the Secretariat, as prescribed in the Statutes and in By-law No. 6. He shall be responsible to the President. He shall also be responsible for managing the website and producing the Newsletters.

## **10. COMMISSIONS**

### **10.1 Formation of Commissions**

The President, assisted by the Board, may appoint Commissions to study scientific, technical, or administrative matters of concern to the Society. The President, assisted by the Vice-Presidents and the Secretariat, shall oversee, co-ordinate and assist in all activities of Commissions.

### **10.2 Duration of Appointment**

- (a) A Commission shall endure for a period that will be fixed at the time of its appointment, but limited to the term of office of the existing Board. The next ISRM President may extend this period or may appoint a new Commission for the same purpose.
- (b) All Commissions shall present a Final Report at the end of the term of office. The Report shall describe the objectives, the methods used to develop the work, obtained results and conclusion. A Commission that does not present the Final Report will be automatically dissolved. All the Reports will be displayed in the ISRM website for consulting.

- (c) The President, assisted by the Board, may dissolve a Commission on account of its inactivity, or for actions contrary to these Rules or to the objects and purposes of the Society.

### ***10.3 Joint Commissions***

Where appropriate, the Board may appoint members of the ISRM to represent the Society on joint commissions with other societies.

## **11. FISCAL POLICY**

### ***11.1 Non-Profit Organisation***

The Society shall be a non-profit Organisation, supported by the fees of the Members, by revenues from technical publications, by unrestricting grants, and by other sources of revenue as approved by the Board.

### ***11.2 Fiscal Year***

The fiscal year of the Society shall be January 1 through December 31.

### ***11.3 Budget***

The budget of the Society shall be prepared by the Board, submitted for approval by the Council, and administered by the Secretary General. Support of the Secretariat and all other expenses shall be included in the Budget.

### ***11.4 Payments for Services***

No Officer or Member except the Secretary General and members of the secretariat shall receive payment for services to the Society.

### ***11.5 Payment of Expenses***

- (a) Expenses incurred by Officers and Members shall be reimbursable only to the extent authorised in advance, by written authority of either the President or the Secretary General, subject to approval by the Board, and within the provisions of the Budget.
- (b) The direct expenses of conducting a Congress, a Symposium or other meetings shall be the responsibility of the National Group organising that meeting. For example, the budget shall carry the costs of translation services, and of meetings of the Council, Board, and Commissions of the Society held at the time and place of the Congress or Symposium (see By-law No. 5).

## **12. IMPLEMENTATION OF STATUTES AND BY-LAWS**

### ***12.1 Legal Jurisdiction***

The Society recognises that these Statutes, and any interpretation of them, may be subject to the law of the country in which the Secretariat is located.

### **12.2 By-laws**

- (a) These Statutes shall be implemented by means of By-laws approved by the Council, and through Guidelines prepared by the Board.
- (b) In case of any contradiction between the provisions of Statutes, By-laws, and Guidelines, By-laws shall prevail over Guidelines, and Statutes shall prevail overall.

### **12.3 Amendments**

- (a) Amendment of Statutes shall require a motion by a National Group or Officer of the Society, and a two-thirds majority vote by Council.
- (b) Amendment of By-laws shall require a motion by a National Group or Officer of the Society, and a simple majority vote by Council.

### **12.4 Dissolution**

- (a) The Society can be dissolved or liquidated only by a resolution passed by at least two-thirds of voting Council members present at a Council meeting or by two-thirds of the votes received in the event of a mail ballot, provided that the total number of votes received establishes a quorum, as defined in 7.4 (b).
- (b) After liquidation of the Society is approved, the Council shall decide by simple majority on the distribution of the Society's assets. Such assets, however, may be disposed of only to non-profit organisations whose primary interests are the advancement of scientific knowledge.