

**Notes to accompany the Draft Constitution to summarize the proposals;  
Those changes considered “significant” are highlighted in bold.**

1. The Preamble in the original draft has been removed because it spoke about ‘there shall be formed’ whereas ISPO has already existed for over 30 years. Elements of the Preamble have been put in Article 1 Name and Article 3 Functions.
2. To ensure all aspects have been covered and for easy access to different articles, we have added a list of contents. This was in fact taken from the constitution of other professional societies and formed a Template for the revised document.
3. Article 2 summarises the Administration of the ISPO. Most of the content is extrapolated from the original constitution and highlights that the Exec Board, on behalf of the IC and members, manages ISPO according to the constitution.
  - a. **In 2.3, the criteria for voting and the authority for the EB to authorize electronic voting have been added.**
  - b. **In 2.4, the requirement that each Member Society choose a one third quorum has been eliminated.**
  - c. **In 2.5, the EB is granted authority to create Bye-Laws that are consistent with the constitution by a 2/3 majority vote.**
4. Article 3 is cut and paste of original Article 1 and describes the objectives. Only change is addition of ‘wheelchairs’.
5. Article 4 is about membership. It was felt that the original article had just a long list of types of memberships and *with no basis of classification*, thus confusing individual memberships with memberships of groups and adding NMSs in the same *single* unclassified list. This has therefore been rationalised as Individual members, Group members and a third group (for info) as Membership Societies which is essentially grouping individual members for functional and administrative reasons as NMS or RMS. Very minor, if any, other differences in text. Only change in definition is Fellow, where it is recognised that the use is dependent on the individual’s NMS (because many countries actually view them differently).
6. Articles on Resignation and Discontinuation of membership (now 4.7 and 4.8; previously 2.5 and 2.6) have been simplified but no changes have been made from the intent of the current constitution.
7. Articles on Obligations and Privileges are essentially ‘cut and paste’ with virtually no change except the statement about “equitable rates for dues” in previous article 3.1.4 on ‘equitable rates’ that has been incorporated into the new section 5.1.1 with more detail.

8. Articles on International Committee (6.1) are also ‘cut and paste’ but in a different order. Only the first paragraph has been expanded for clarity and to explicitly include Regional Member Societies.
9. Articles on ‘Executive Board’ in 6.2 are also largely ‘cut and paste’. The archaic term “Honorary” has been omitted from the Treasurer and Secretary position.
  - a. **Prior sections 4.3.6 and 4.3.7 regarding filling vacancies on the Board have been deleted and these procedures are now described in sections 6.2.5 and 6.3.4.**
  - b. **Deleting the term “Honorary” also means that the Treasurer and Secretary will now be entitled to vote. Previously, the custom was that Honorary officers could debate but could not vote.**
10. Article 6.3 – Officers of the Society is largely unchanged, except for the items noted below. The language at places has been simplified e.g. deleting ‘under the direction of the President’ in roles of other officers.
  - a. **The significant change is that the P&N committee felt that there is no specific need for the title of ‘Vice-President’ and hence the 2 VPs will cease to exist after 2010.**
  - b. **Also, the Secretary is no longer required to be a member of all Standing Committees.**
11. Article 7 summarizes all the Committees and defines the authority of the President to appoint temporary Ad Hoc committees and to appoint Task Officers. Most of this section is unchanged from the current constitution.
12. Finance Committee (Article 7.2) is mostly ‘cut and paste’.
  - a. **Changes include the requirement to have the finances audited by a paid expert on accounts and finance and to have someone from the Secretariat as a standing member of the Finance committee. An elected member from the Board, the Treasurer, is designated to be Chairman.**
13. The Protocol Committee (Article 7.3) is primarily a refinement and clarification of the intent under the current constitution. The name has changed by deleting the term ‘Nominations’. This committee does not nominate appointees but only formulates a list of potential candidates and hence the old term was not accurate. The membership of this committee includes 3 individuals from the membership at large in addition to the Board members.

- a. **In this proposal, the Protocol Committee appoints an ‘Election Officer’ to ensure equity and transparency in the nominations and election process.**
14. Education Committee (7.4) has only minor changes by specifying who the members should be.
  - a. **The main change is Article 7.5 adding the ‘Scientific Committee’ to the list of Standing Committees. Although this has been an Ad Hoc committee for many years, the committee and Board feel that the growing importance of research and science justifies having this one of the ‘standard’ committees in ISPO.**
15. Article 8 on National and Regional Member Societies – previously 4.6 – has been substantially revised, after much discussion and debate. Much has remained the same but several changes are proposed in response to changes in the world: for example, the rapidly changing national borders in many parts of our world. It is hope that development of active Regional Member Societies will help ISPO adapt to the changing times and increase our membership.
  - a. **Article 8.8 was much debated. Under the current constitution, an NMS with 16 members has the same voting representation on the IC as an NMS with 400 members or more. The recommendation of the committee for more balanced representation is presented for consideration.**
16. Article 9 on Triennial Assembly has been reworded for clarification.
17. Article 11 on Financial Management (previously 5.1 to 5.4 was inadequate) has been reworded to increase both clarity and accountability.
18. Article 11 on Amendments is very similar to the current constitution but reworded to be clearer.
  - a. **The one significant change here is that proposed changes to the constitution must be published three months in advance of the IC meeting, rather than 6 months in the current constitution. With modern communications, this should be ample advance notice while allowing the Society to respond more quickly to the need for changes.**
19. Article on Dissolution did not exist and, while we do not expect the ISPO to be dissolved, a comprehensive constitution must cover this possibility.
  - a. **Because Article 18 is completely new, members are encouraged to read it carefully and to suggest improvements, if necessary.**
20. The current constitution does not have Bye-Laws so the policies and customs of the Society are written in various Guidelines. As the number of Guidelines has grown,

this has become cumbersome. If the development of Bye-Laws is approved by the members, then the Board will be able to distil the essence from the Guidelines to create a more logical and accessible series of policies that are directly related to the new constitution.

- a. An example of what one portion of the Bye-Laws might include has been provided as an illustration only. Policies regarding items that might change fairly often, such as the subscription rate or the publication of a journal, are better handled by Bye-Laws that can be updated by a 2/3 majority vote of the Board rather than being included in a constitution.**
- b. Please note that, unless the pertinent constitutional changes are approved, ISPO cannot have any official Bye-Laws and the practice of using Guidelines will continue. [There is no need to comment on Bye-Law 1 as it has not been adopted.]**