



# THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR FALCONRY AND CONSERVATION OF BIRDS OF PREY

## CONSTITUTION

### TITLE I

#### NAME, REGISTERED OFFICE, DURATION AND OBJECTIVES.

##### **Article 1: Name. Registered Office. Duration.**

1.1. "THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR FALCONRY AND CONSERVATION OF BIRDS OF PREY" (hereafter "I.A.F.") is a non-profit international association governed by the provisions of title III of the Law of 27th June 1921 on non-profit associations, foundations, and international non-profit associations, which has its registered office at:

Rue F. Pelletier 82, B-1030 Brussels

1.2. Said office may be established at any other location within Belgium, by resolution of the Council. Any decision to transfer the registered office shall be deposited in the I.A.F. association file and be published in the 'Annexes du Moniteur Belge' according to the law in force.

1.3. The I.A.F. is established for an indefinite duration of time.

##### **Article 2: Objectives.**

2.1. As an international federation of falconry organisations the objectives of the I.A.F. are:

2.1.1. To represent falconry throughout the world. Falconry is the traditional sport of taking quarry in its natural state and habitat by means of trained birds of prey. It is a hunting art.

2.1.2. To preserve and encourage falconry within the context of sustainable use of wildlife.

2.1.3. To encourage conservation, the ecological and veterinary research on birds of prey and promote, under scientific guidance, domestic propagation for falconry.

2.1.4. To develop, maintain and amend national and international laws, treaties and conventions to permit the pursuit and perpetuation of falconry.

2.1.5. To require the observation of falconry, hunting, conservation and welfare laws, regulations, traditions and culture with regard to the taking, import, export and keeping of birds of prey, the taking of quarry species and the right of access to land in the country concerned.

2.1.6. To promote and uphold a positive public image of falconry with specialist organisations which regulate or otherwise affect falconry.

### TITLE II

#### MEMBER ORGANISATIONS.

##### **Article 3: Membership.**

3.1.1 Membership by organizations shall be limited to organisations representing falconry (hereafter, 'Member Organisations, 'Associate Member Organisations' or 'Corresponding Member Organisation') possessing legal personality, such as a formal constitution and membership structure, according to the laws and practices of their country, and to Supporting organisations which are not traditional types of falconry clubs or associations (hereafter, 'Supporting Organisation').

3.1.2. Subscription by individuals is not membership as defined in 3.1.1. It shall allow the IAF to recognize and encourage financial donations made by individuals or corporations to the IAF and is designed to attract funding for the IAF. Individual Subscribers shall not have voting rights within the IAF but may be invited to attend IAF events

including the Assembly of Delegates and to volunteer for roles within the IAF. Different categories of Individual Subscriber may be determined to recognize different scales of financial donation. The different categories of individual Subscriber, as well as their rights and obligations, will be determined by the President and approved by Council.

3.2. A potential Member Organisation may apply for full membership after it has formally existed for at least two (2) years of operation as a legal organisation or association in a country where falconry is a legal field sport. A potential Associate Member Organisation may apply for membership as a legal or informal organisation or association in a country where falconry is not recognised as a legal field sport. The applicant Member Organisations must subscribe to the Constitution.

3.2.1. By invitation of the President and with the approval of the Council, a Corresponding Member Organisation may apply for membership. A Corresponding Member Organisation may qualify for membership when it can meet the qualifications set herein for a Member or Associate Member Organisation. Its representatives and members, if any, shall not have voting rights; and, it shall be exempt from the paying dues pursuant to Art. 15.

3.2.2 By invitation of the President and with the approval of the Council, a Supporting Member Organisation which represents or supports falconry may apply for membership. A Supporting Member Organisation shall not qualify for membership as a Member Organisation or Associate Member Organisation; its representatives and members, if any, shall not hold office or have voting rights on the Council but may be appointed to working groups pursuant to Art. 6.1; and, it shall pay fixed dues pursuant to Art. 15.

3.3. Upon recommendation to the President and the Council by the Advisory Committee after review and investigation for suitability of the applicant organisation, the Council shall admit an applicant Member Organisation, Associate Member Organisation, Corresponding Member Organisation or Supporting Member Organisation by a majority vote of the Delegates.

3.4. Membership entitles the Member Organisation, Associate Member Organisation, or Corresponding Member Organisation to international representation by the I.A.F., subject to the provisions of this Constitution and the resolutions of the Council.

3.5. Individual members of a Member Organisation, Associate Member Organisation, Corresponding Member Organisation or Supporting Member Organisation may attend Council meetings, but attendance and participation, if any, may be limited by the Council at its sole discretion.

3.6. Loss of Membership by Member Organizations. Membership shall terminate upon any of the following: (a) by the dissolution of the Member Organisation, Associate Member Organisation, Corresponding Member Organisation, or Supporting Member Organisation; (b) by resignation; (c) by suspension for an act contrary to the Constitution; (d) by repeated failure to pay dues pursuant to the conditions set forth in Article 15.1., below; or, (e) by expulsion.

3.6.1. A Member Organisation or Associate Member Organisation shall only be expelled for cause upon a two thirds (2/3) vote of the Delegates at a regular or special meeting after notice is provided to the Member Organisation or Associate Member Organisation proposed to be expelled. The Member Organisation or Associate Member Organisation proposed to be expelled shall be afforded a hearing, upon request, before the Council prior to any vote on expulsion.

3.6.2. A Corresponding Member Organisation or Supporting Member Organisation may be expelled with or without cause upon a majority vote of the Delegates at a regular or special meeting after notice is provided to the Supporting Organisation proposed to be expelled. The Corresponding Member Organisation or Supporting Member Organisation proposed to be expelled may be afforded a hearing, upon request, at the sole discretion of the Council prior to any vote on expulsion.

3.7. Loss of status by Subscribers. Subscriber Status shall terminate upon any of the following: (a) At the end of a period of time determined upon by the category of membership, (b) by resignation, (c) by suspension for an act contrary to the Constitution.

3.7.1. A Subscriber may be expelled with or without cause upon a majority vote of the Advisory Committee of the IAF after notice is provided to the Individual Subscriber who is proposed to be expelled. The Individual Subscriber who is proposed to be expelled may be afforded a hearing, upon request, at the sole discretion of the Committee prior to any vote on expulsion.

**TITLE III  
THE NATIONAL DELEGATES.**

**Article 4: Election of the National Delegates.**

4.1. The National Delegates shall be selected by the Member Organisations and Associate Member Organisations. The selection procedures of National Delegates are left to the initiative of the Member Organisations and Associate Member Organisations.

4.2. Member Organisations and Associate Member Organisations from the same country shall select a single National Delegate from their country to the Council. In the event that there is more than one Member Organisation from any nation, the National Delegate shall be selected by consensus of the member organisations from the nation. If the National Delegate cannot be selected by consensus, then the Member Organisation with the largest membership as determined by the annual subscriptions paid to the IAF and supported by the production of membership lists with e-mail addresses of the members, shall select the National Delegate. The National Delegate will carry the National vote, provided they represent either a Member or Associate Member Organization

In the event that a Member Organisation represents individual regular voting members from several countries, a National Delegate shall be selected from each country and approved by the Council so represented by such a Member Organisation.

4.3. A country is any state that is recognised for membership in the United Nations.

**Article 5: Role of the National Delegates.**

5.1. Member Organisations and Associate Member Organisations are responsible for providing their National Delegates with funds and appropriate office equipment to be able to attend and participate fully in the deliberations of the Council.

5.2. The National Delegates represent their Member Organisations or Associate Member Organisations at meetings of the Council or they may be represented by proxy.

5.3. The National Delegates shall represent and report decisions of the Council and activities of the I.A.F. to their Member Organisations or Associate Member Organisations.

5.4. The National Delegates shall discharge faithfully any special responsibility assigned to them.

5.5. The National Delegates shall report, timely, to the IAF any official problem arising in the country they represent. They shall report as well all alterations of the existing regulations concerning falconry in their country.

5.6. A National Delegate shall not be entitled to vote on matters coming before the Council if the Member Organisation's dues have not been paid timely pursuant to Article 15.1.

**TITLE IV  
COMMITTEES.**

**Article 6. Formation and Appointment of Committees.**

6.1. The President, in consultation with and with consent of the majority of the Advisory Committee, may appoint regular committees and working groups as needed from among the Council membership, the Member Organisations, Associate Member Organisations, Corresponding Member Organisations, Supporting Member Organisations and from the membership of cooperating organisations and such other persons as permitted pursuant to Article 12.1.5.

6.2. Each regular and ad hoc committee shall elect a Chairman from among its membership.

6.3 When necessary, decisions shall be made by a majority vote of the members of the committee.

6.4. The chairman of a committee shall report the progress of the committee to the President and the Council at the annual meeting or at such other times upon request.

**Article 7: Committee Work.**

7.1. The program of work of the committees and working parties or groups shall be set by the Council. Urgent matters may be considered at any time by a committee as requested by the President after consulting with the Advisory Committee.

7.2. The work of the committees and working parties or groups may terminate on the making of recommendations submitted for approval by the Council, or in case of an emergency, to the President of the I.A.F.

7.3. The President, after consulting the Advisory Committee, may take appropriate action on the recommendations of a committee in an emergency.

**Article 8: Communication and Publication.**

8.1. No communication or publication may be made in the I.A.F.'s name or by reference to its work without the President's prior written approval, or in emergency circumstances by verbal approval of the President, later confirmed in writing.

**Title V  
COUNCIL MEETINGS.**

**Article 9: Attendance at Council Meetings.**

9.1. The I.A.F. Council consists of Delegates from Member Organisations and Associate Member Organisations.

9.2. All Member Organisations and Associate Member Organisations may send no more than three (3) representatives to Council meetings.

9.3. Voting in Council Meetings will be apportioned as follows:

- i. National Delegates from Nations represented by Member Organizations or Associate Member Organization and who are appointed as detailed in Section 4.2. will hold one (1) National Vote.
- ii. Delegates from Member Organizations and Associate Member Organizations, providing that the Organisation's dues have been paid timely pursuant to Article 15.1., will hold votes according to following scale:
  - a) All Member and Associate Member Organizations with 50 or more members shall hold 1 vote.
  - b) All Member and Associate Member Organizations with 200 or more members shall hold 2 votes
  - c) All Member and Associate Member Organizations with 500 or more members shall hold 3 votes.
  - d) All Member and Associate Member Organizations with 1000 or more members shall hold 4 votes.
- iii. Membership numbers for Member and Associate Member Organizations will be determined by the annual subscriptions paid to the IAF and supported by production of verifiable membership lists in the event of dispute.
- iv. It will be the duty of the Executive Secretary, with the support of the Treasurer, to establish the number of votes held by each delegate and to notify all delegates of their voting rights, not less than 1 week prior to a Council Meeting.

9.3 4. Postal and electronic voting shall be permitted after full consultation on and presentation of the issue to be voted upon, except for amendment to the Constitution pursuant to Art. 19.

9.4 5. Notice of all Council meetings shall be given thirty (30) days in advance by postal mail or electronic mail with an agenda provided with such notice.

9.5 The President and Vice Presidents shall be elected by a majority vote of all Voting Delegates.

**Article 10: Council Meetings.**

10.1. A Council Meeting shall be called at least every year by the President but more frequent meetings may be held on the President's initiative or at the request of at least two thirds (2/3) of the duly selected National Delegates. When funding is available, Council Meetings may be held in different geographical regions of the world with the invitation of the national Member Organization.

10.2. A Voting Delegate may give, in case he cannot attend a specific Council meeting, a proxy in writing to a Voting Delegate of another Organization for purposes of voting on such matters that may come before the Council. A Voting Delegate may hold no more than two (2) proxies. For purposes of conducting business a quorum of the Council is established when at least twenty-five (25) of the duly selected National Delegates are present or represented by proxy in writing.

10.3. The Council shall have the authority to establish the broad outlines of the I.A.F.'s policy, to examine the financial statements, to set the dues and generally to conduct such other business as necessary for the proper operation of the I.A.F.

10.4. The Council shall be informed of the work of the committees and working parties or groups. It may approve, amend or reject any of their recommendations. It shall review the President's report of his activity since the last meeting.

10.5. The Council shall adopt resolutions by a majority vote of the Voting Delegates present or by proxy provided that a quorum of the Council votes on all such resolutions.

10.5.1. By a majority vote of a quorum of the Voting Delegates present or represented by proxy, the Council meeting may be closed for special purposes as determined by the Council.

10.6. Every three (3) years the Council shall elect the President and the Vice Presidents by majority vote of the Voting Delegates provided that a quorum is present or represented by proxy. If necessary, multiple ballots may be taken in order to elect the President by a plurality.

## **TITLE VI THE PRESIDENT, OFFICERS, AND THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

### **Article 11. The President and Vice Presidents.**

#### 11.1. President.

11.1.1. The President of I.A.F. is elected for three (3) years at a Council meeting pursuant to Article 10.6. The President shall begin his term of office on January 1 of the year following his election.

11.1.2. The President must be a National Delegate of or nominated by a Member Organisation, and after serving a term is eligible for re-election to a second term of office.

11.1.3. In the event of disability or resignation, the President shall be replaced by the Vice President senior in service or upon the independent action taken by the Council pursuant to Art.

10.1. The Vice President or other substitute for the President shall serve only until the next Council meeting and then may be eligible for election as the President. The term of the President subsequently elected by the Council shall begin immediately.

11.1.4. A former President may attend Council Meetings in a non-voting capacity if he is no longer a National Delegate.

#### 11.2. Vice Presidents.

11.2.1. The Vice Presidents of I.A.F. are elected for three (3) years at a Council meeting pursuant to Article 10.6. A Vice President shall begin his term of office on January 1 of the year following his election.

11.2.2. The Vice Presidents must be National Delegates of or nominated by a Member Organisation, and after serving a term are eligible for re-election to a second term of office.

11.2.3. In the event of disability or resignation, a Vice President may be replaced by another National Delegate by appointment of the President. The substitute for the Vice President shall serve only until the next Council meeting and then may be eligible for election as a permanent Vice President. The term of the Vice President subsequently elected by the Council shall begin immediately.

### **Article 12: Powers and Duties of the President, Vice Presidents and Officers.**

#### 12.1. President.

12.1.1 The President shall have the standing authority by and obligation to the Council to implement the I.A.F.'s policies and to execute them with the Council's and Advisory Committee's assistance.

12.1.2. The President chairs the Council and is an ex officio member of the committees and working parties or groups.

12.1.3. The President is responsible to the Council and shall inform it periodically of his actions.

12.1.4. The President shall act as administrator of the I.A.F. He shall transmit recommendations and resolutions approved by the Council to the organisations or governments involved through the National Delegates in order to take action thereon. He shall deal with any internal problems and shall be responsible for the I.A.F.'s external relations.

12.1.5. The President may invite any expert, specialist or, generally any person whether or not a member of a Member Association or Associate Member Organisation of the I.A.F., whose skills may be helpful, to the Council and committees, working party or groups meetings.

12.1.6 The President is the sole officer competent to bind the I.A.F. and to execute or sign all actions, agreements, and other legal obligations and to pursue judicial actions either as claimant or defendant on behalf of the I.A.F.

12.2. Vice Presidents.

12.2.1. The Vice Presidents shall represent respectively the following geographic areas: (1) one for Europe and to include Africa South of the Sahara and Oceania; (2) one for Asia and; and, (3) one for North and South America, and (4) one for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region.

12.2.2. The Vice Presidents shall have the standing authority by and obligation to the Council to implement such policies and to fulfil such other obligations as may be set by the Council.

12.2.3. A Vice President shall be chosen by the Council to serve as President in the event of the President's resignation or incapacity pursuant to Art. 11.1.3.

12.3. Secretary and Treasurer and Other Officers.

12.3.1. The President shall appoint a Secretary and a Treasurer, whose appointments shall be approved by the Council at its next regular meeting. Their duties shall be determined by the Council. The President may appoint, with the approval of the Council, such other officers as necessary for the proper conduct of business of the I.A.F.

12.3.1.1. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the proper financial management of the I.A.F. pursuant to Art. 16.

Article 13: The Advisory Committee.

13.1. The I.A.F. shall be managed by the President, who shall be advised by an Advisory Committee of ten (10) members, plus the Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer. All members of the Advisory Committee shall be voting members. The Advisory Committee members, who are members of a Member Organisation, will be appointed after consultation with their Member Organisation.

13.2. The members of the Advisory Committee upon recommendation of the President shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Council for no longer than the term of the presidency. Any serving member of the Advisory Committee may be reappointed at the pleasure of the Council. The Advisory Committee shall elect its chairman from among its membership.

13.3. The Advisory Committee shall meet at the President's discretion but not less than one (1) time per year. The President shall give notice of the Advisory Committee meetings at least one (1) month prior to any meeting, except that such requirement of notice may be waived by a majority of the Advisory Committee members under exigent circumstances. Notice of meetings shall be given in writing by postal service mail, facsimile, or by electronic mail.

13.4. The advice and recommendations of the Advisory Committee shall be adopted by a majority of a quorum of the committee members present or represented by proxy in writing. The decisions of the Advisory Committee shall be recorded in a register kept by the Secretary.

13.5. The list of the members of the Advisory Committee shall be published in the 'Annexes du Moniteur Belge'.

## **TITLE VII FINANCIAL PROVISIONS.**

**Article 14: The I.A.F.'s Financial Resources.**

14.1. The I.A.F.'s financial resources derive from dues and any income from its capital fund, or gifts and other sources.

**Article 15: Dues.**

15.1. Member Organisations, Associate Member Organisations and Supporting Organisations owe dues in an amount fixed by the Council. The dues are payable annually. If they are not paid within three (3) months of the notice, the members in default shall be sent another notice to pay within three (3) months. If such default recurs for two (2) consecutive years, the provisions of Article 3 shall be applied.

15.2. The National Delegates shall assist the I.A.F. in the collection of dues from their respective Member Organisations and Associate Member Organisations.

#### **Article 16: Financial Management.**

16.1. Based on the information obtained by the President and on planned programs, the Treasurer shall submit an annual budget at each Council meeting. The Treasurer shall also present to the Council a report on the I.A.F.'s financial accounts for such period prepared annually which shall be audited by auditors appointed by the Council.

16.1.1 The I.A.F. business year is the calendar year beginning January 1 and ending December 31.

### **TITLE VIII Executive Office**

#### **Article 17: Executive Office**

17.1. The President, with the approval of the Council of Delegates, may appoint an executive officer, to serve at the pleasure of the Council of Delegates (hereafter, "Executive Officer"), who shall be compensated based on a budget determined by the President and the Board of Directors. If an Executive Office is established the Advisory Committee and the "Board of Directors" shall be one and the same.

17.2. The Executive Officer shall be directed by the President based on terms and conditions set by the President and the Board of Directors (Advisory Committee as in 17.1).

17.3. The Executive Officer, when permitted by the budget, may employ such staff as may be required to perform the functions of the executive office (hereafter, "Executive Office").

17.4. The Executive Office shall be located initially in or near Brussels, Belgium, or at such other locations as may be selected by the President and Board of Directors from time to time.

17.5. The Executive Officer and staff shall perform the professional work of the IAF as set by the President and the Board of Directors.

17.5.1. Administration. Administration shall include budget and financial administration, employee management, information technology oversight, communication services, and fundraising coordination.

17.5.2. Conservation. Raptor and raptor-related research and conservation programs may be undertaken by the Executive Office, by a separate organisation or foundation within the I.A.F. established by the Council of Delegates, or by agreement with an independent organisation. For any conservation efforts, there shall be appropriate review of any projects for funding and scientific integrity and need.

17.5.3. International Representation and Public Relations. The I.A.F. shall attempt to be represented at appropriate and relevant meetings and conferences of international organisations, institutional and governmental agencies and conventions. As may be permitted under law, the I.A.F. shall seek to promote and protect falconry and support conservation efforts as well as the cultural heritage of falconry before such bodies with specialised public relations means.

17.5.4. Member Services. The Executive Office shall provide a broad range of services to the member organisations, which shall include regular communication by electronic media, print publications, by sharing specialized knowledge, organisation of an annual general meeting and other events, and by response as necessary to member organisations specialised needs and requests.

17.6. The Executive Officer shall report fully to the Council of Delegates annually.

17.6.1. The Executive Officer shall be reviewed annually by the Board of Directors to consider professional performance. The annual performance review shall be reported to the President and Council of Delegates.

17.7. The Council of Delegates may form a foundation or trust to develop and raise financial support to operate the Executive office and support all other functions of the I.A.F.

**TITLE IX  
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.**

**Article 18, Languages of the I.A.F.**

18.1. The official language of the I.A.F. shall be one of the official languages of Belgium. English and other languages may be used insofar as they may be needed for meetings, publications, or official documents.

18.2. In case of doubt or disagreement as to the interpretation of the Constitution or any other written document of the I.A.F., the registered language version (French) adopted by the Council shall be determinative and authoritative.

**Article 19. Fundamental Principles and By Laws.**

19.1. The President, when necessary or when requested by the Council, may propose additional rules covering particular matters not covered by this Constitution, or the Fundamental Principles. Any such proposals shall be subject to discussion and amendment by the Council and may be adopted only on a majority vote of the Council.

**Article 20: Amendment.**

20.1. This Constitution may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the Council by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the National Delegates present or represented by proxy. Any amendments to the constitution will enter into force only after the approval by the competent authority according article 50 § 3 (\*) of the Law of twenty seventh of June, nineteen hundred twenty-one and after publication in the Annexes du Moniteur Belge, pursuant to article 51 § 3 of the said Law.

**TITLE IX  
DISSOLUTION.**

**Article 21. Dissolution.**

21.1. The I.A.F. may be dissolved and its assets disposed of at a special Council meeting called by the President or at the request of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the National Delegates on the Council. Upon dissolution, the net assets after the clearing of the accounts may be distributed to the members not exceeding the amount of their contribution (not of their dues paid) and must in any case be allocated to an aim without interest at stake as indicated by the Council Meeting taking into account the objectives that the association defined upon its funding. The assets of the I.A.F. shall be assigned first to the successor organisation to the I.A.F., or then be redistributed pro rata to the Member Organisations and Associate Member Organisations based on the percentage of dues paid of each member to the total amount of dues paid by all members, or then to any organisation or association which follows the principles and purposes subscribed to by the I.A.F.

**TITLE XI  
CONSTITUTIONAL OMISSION**

**Article 22. Constitutional Omission.**

22.1. Any provision unforeseen or omitted from this constitution will be subject to the provisions of Title III of the Belgian law 27th June 1921 on non-profit associations, foundations, and international non-profit associations.