

International Police Association



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International Statute

International Rules

(2006)

International Statute

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A. Fundamental Principles

Article 1 – Title, Motto, Emblems and Languages

1. The Association shall be called the “International Police Association” (IPA).
2. The motto, in Esperanto, shall be “SERVO PER AMIKECO” (service through friendship).
3. The emblems of the IPA are protected by copyright and may only be used within the framework of the Association.
4. The official working languages of the Association shall be English, French, German and Spanish. Should a difference of interpretation occur between language versions of the documents, the English version shall be applied.

Article 2 - Aims of the Association

1. The IPA is an independent body made up of members of the police service belonging to National Sections, whether on active duty or retired, and without distinction as to rank, sex, race, colour, language or religion. Its purpose is to create bonds of friendship and to promote international co-operation.

It is committed to the principles set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as adopted by the United Nations in 1948 and recognises that any form of torture is absolutely inconsistent with these principles.

Its aims include the development of cultural relations amongst its members, a broadening of their general knowledge, and an exchange of professional experience; in addition, it seeks to foster mutual help in the social sphere and to contribute, within the limits of its possibilities, to peaceful co-existence between peoples and to the preservation of world peace.

2. To this end it undertakes to
 - a) encourage personal contacts by organising exchange visits of individuals and groups, arranging group holidays and initiating pen-friendships;
 - b) promote among the police services of all the National Sections respect for law and order;
 - c) develop social and cultural activities and to encourage the exchange of professional experiences;
 - d) enhance the image of the police in the countries of its Sections and to help improve relations between the police and the general public;
 - e) foster youth exchanges and international youth meetings with a view to promoting greater tolerance and understanding between people, and understanding for the work of the police;
 - f) facilitate a regular exchange of publications between the National Sections and to provide an information service, for the national IPA publications, containing news on all subjects of relevance to the Association;
 - g) promote international publications, and to help with the preparation of a bibliography of police works and, wherever possible, of all works connected with the law or legal matters;

- h) facilitate international co-operation through friendly contacts between police officers of all continents and to contribute to a mutual understanding of professional problems.

Article 3 - Composition and Seat

1. The Association shall consist only of National Sections (hereinafter called Sections) which work together in the International Executive Council (IEC) in order to attain a common set of goals. All decisions taken by the IEC are binding on the Sections in so far as they do not contravene their national law.
2. The seat of the Association shall be in Geneva, Switzerland and Swiss law shall apply. (Article 60 onwards of the Swiss Civil Code - CCS).
3. The liabilities of the Association shall be limited to the assets of the Association (Article 75a - CCS). The liabilities of any Section is limited to the amount of their annual levy.

B National Sections

Article 4 - Foundation and Affiliation

Sections may be founded in any country, which does not already have an IPA Section, the procedure for which shall be carried out in accordance with the Directive for the Foundation and Affiliation of National Sections.

Article 5 - Membership

Sections shall recruit members from among members of the police service of their own country on the basis of the principles embodied in International Statute (IS), Article 2.1.

There shall be the following categories of membership;

- a) Ordinary Membership,
- b) Foreign Associate Membership,
- c) Extraordinary Membership.

The definition and conditions of membership are as shown in the International Rules (IR), Article 2.

Article 6 - Statutes

1. Sections shall draw up statutes which shall not be in contradiction with the International Statute.
2. A violation of the International Statute, Rules or Directives shall be dealt with by the Section to which the member belongs. If the Section does not act, it will be held responsible for the violation and dealt with in accordance with IR, Article 5.1.a)

Article 7 - Administration and Structure

1. Sections shall elect a National Executive Committee whose term of office shall be limited in time by the statutes and which shall consist of at least a
 - President
 - Secretary General
 - Treasurer
2. Sections are independent as regards their administration.
3. Sections shall conduct themselves in accordance with the provisions contained within the Rules.

Article 8 - Suspension

1. A Section may be suspended by the IEC, or in exceptional cases, by the Permanent Executive Bureau (PEB).
2. The reasons for suspension and the procedure to be followed shall be as defined in IR, Article 5.

Article 9 - Expulsion

1. Expulsion can only follow suspension and shall only be applied if the reason for suspension still exists. Expulsions must be decided by a two-thirds majority of all the votes of the Sections present or represented at an IPA World Congress or IEC Conference.
2. Once a Section has been expelled, its members may become Foreign Associated Members of other Sections as provided for in IR, Article 2.1.b)

C International Executive Council (IEC)

Article 10 - Tasks and Composition

1. The IEC is the supreme body of the Association and shall have overall responsibility for it.
2. The IEC is composed of one delegate from each Section and of the PEB. It shall meet every three years at an IPA World Congress and between Congresses, once a year at an IEC Conference.
3. For the purpose of an IPA World Congress or IEC Conference, a minimum of three-quarters of all Sections must be present or represented, plus a minimum of five members of the PEB.
4. The Permanent Executive Bureau (PEB) shall convene the IPA World Congress or the IEC Conference at the time and place approved by the IEC. If changes need to be made for important reasons, the decision shall be taken by the PEB.
5. An Extraordinary IPA World Congress shall be convened if;
 - at least one half of all Sections submit a written proposal to this effect to the PEB, or

- new elections become necessary after the setting up of a crisis committee in accordance with IS, Article 13.1. Such new elections shall be organised no later than one year after a crisis committee has been set up. If an IEC Conference is scheduled to take place during this period, it shall be convened as an Extraordinary IPA World Congress.
 - there is a need to resolve conflict between Articles within the International Statute, as described in IS, Article 21.3
6. Each Section and the PEB shall have one vote in the IEC.
 7. A representative of the “IBZ Schloss Gimborn” (International Educational Centre at Gimborn Castle) shall also be invited to attend IPA World Congresses and IEC Conferences at the expense of the Association. This representative may only speak on matters concerning the IBZ Schloss Gimborn and shall have no voting rights.
 8. Conditions of attendance at IPA World Congresses and IEC Conferences shall be as defined in the IR, Article 10.

D Permanent Executive Bureau (PEB)

Article 11 - Election and Composition

1. The PEB shall be elected at the IPA World Congress for a period of three years.
2. It shall be composed of
 - International President,
 - Three International Vice-Presidents,
 - International Secretary General,
 - Assistant International Secretary General,
 - International Treasurer,
 - Assistant International Treasurer.

PEB members may be re-elected.

3. The procedure for elections shall be as defined in IR, Article 15.

Article 12 - PEB Responsibilities

1. The PEB is responsible for the management of the Association and for the implementation of decisions taken by the IEC. It shall have the power to act on behalf of the IEC in any matter requiring immediate action.
2. The International President and an additional member of the PEB shall represent the Association in and out of court.
3. The working methods of the PEB shall be as defined in the Rules.

Article 13 - Crisis Committee

1. In the event that the PEB is unable to continue its work, a Crisis Committee shall be formed consisting of the Presidents of the five oldest Sections (United Kingdom, The Netherlands, Belgium, France and Norway). Should one of these Sections be eliminated by dissolution or expulsion, its place shall be taken by the next most senior Section.
2. The Crisis Committee shall be responsible for the conduct of business until new elections can be held in accordance with IS, Article 10.5.

Article 14 - International Commissions

1. In furtherance of the aims of the Association there shall be five standing commissions which shall support the work of the PEB.
 - International Commission for External Relations (ERC)
 - International Cultural Commission (ICC)
 - International Internal Commission (IIC)
 - International Professional Commission (IPC)
 - International Social Commission (ISC)
2. The appointment of Commission members, their responsibilities and working methods shall be in accordance with the Directive for International Commissions.

E Finances

Article 15 - Financial Management

1. The International Treasury shall manage the assets of the Association in accordance with the decisions of the IEC and PEB.
2. All payments made by the International Treasury for travel and accommodation shall be in accordance with the Directive for Travel and Accommodation Expenses.
3. Each Section must deposit, not later than the commencement of the IPA World Congress or IEC Conference each year, its international dues as fixed by the IEC.

4. The financial year shall be the same as the calendar year. The International Treasury shall close the accounts on 31 December each year and shall submit a set of reports on the financial situation of the Association to the IEC.

Article 16 - Audit of Accounts

1. The accounts, vouchers, bank statements, etc., shall be examined annually by an external accountant.
2. Internal Auditors shall be elected at the IPA World Congress for a period of three years. Their term of office shall be renewable once only. The procedure for elections and their responsibilities shall be as defined in IR, Article 17.

F Other Regulations

Article 17 – Impartiality

PEB members, International Commission members, Internal Auditors and members of a Crisis Committee, shall carry out their duties independently of the interests of their Sections and for the exclusive good of the Association

Article 18 - Publications

1. Statements on political, religious or race issues may not be made or published on behalf of the Association.

The Association's strict policy of neutrality shall be observed in all publications.

2. Reports and minutes which are marked "internal" may neither be published, nor passed on to unauthorised persons.

Article 19 - Dissolution

1. The dissolution of the IPA may only occur at an Extraordinary IPA World Congress with a two-thirds majority of all votes of the Sections present or represented.
2. In the event of dissolution, the assets of the Association shall be given to one or more international relief organisations chosen at the Extraordinary IPA World Congress.

Article 20 - Rules and Directives

1. International Rules shall be established in support of the International Statute.
2. Complex procedures or matters requiring greater explanation than can reasonably be covered in the International Statute or Rules may be dealt with by way of a Directive.
3. The International Rules and any Directives are an integral part of the International Statute.

Article 21 - Revision of the Statute

1. A revision of the Statute may only be decided at an IPA World Congress with a two-thirds majority of all the votes of the Sections present or represented at the Congress.
2. Any amendment shall enter into force immediately after the closing of the congress.
3. If, following an IPA World Congress, any amendment to the Statute is found to create a conflict with any other Article of the International Statute and Rules, the following IEC Conference shall be convened as an Extraordinary IPA World Congress for the purpose of correcting the conflict only. The meeting will then continue as an IEC Conference.
4. All matters of interpretation arising in conjunction with the Statute shall be settled provisionally by the PEB pending a decision by the IEC.

Article 22 - Entry into Force

This International Statute was adopted by the 18th IPA World Congress, in Ljubljana, Slovenia and entered into force on 22 September 2006

International Rules

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A Fundamental Principle

Article 1 - Fundamental Principle

The basis of the International Rules is Article 20 of the International Statute.

B National Sections

Article 2 - Membership

1. There shall be the following categories and conditions of membership:

a) Ordinary Membership

Each Section shall determine for itself who is to be considered as belonging to the police service and who can be accepted as a member. It shall also be free to make a distinction between police officers and civilian employees of the police. Conditions of membership, and any changes made to them, must be notified to the PEB.

Serving or retired police officers who are not members of the IPA and who transfer their residence to another country may only be accepted as a member if they satisfy the conditions of membership of that country. If they are already members, they may retain their membership in their former Section, or transfer it to the Section of their new country of residence. This shall also apply to police officers on secondment to another country.

b) Foreign Associate Membership

Members of the police service of a country, where there is no IPA Section, may be admitted to the membership of existing Sections as Foreign Associate Members. Such membership shall not be continued once a Section has been established.

c) Extraordinary Membership

Sections are permitted to admit widows and widowers of members as Extraordinary Members. Extraordinary members will have the same rights and obligations as ordinary members. However, such membership shall not entitle them to hold any governing office.

Article 3 - Statutes

1. The statutes of Sections shall be submitted to the PEB in one of the official working languages as soon as they have been adopted or modified.
2. Clashes between the National and the International Statutes resulting from national legalisation shall be examined by the IEC. They may not call into question the fundamental principles set out in Part A of the International Statute.

Article 4 - Administration and Structure

1. Sections shall be subdivided geographically into Regional groups if this is in the best interest of the membership and a properly-run administration.

2. These Regional groups must limit their activities to their respective areas; they are not independent and may only be represented by the National Executive Committee as far as the Association is concerned.
3. No Section or Regional group shall be permitted to commit itself or the Association to becoming a member of any other organisation, without the prior consent of the IEC.
4. Working groups or other special interest groups, even if they have an international membership, may only raise issues through their Sections.
5. Sections may establish IPA Houses within their respective countries, in accordance with the Directive for IPA Houses.

Article 5 - Suspension

1. A Section may be suspended by the IEC -
 - a) for a breach of the International Statute, Rules or Directives;
 - b) when external circumstances prevent a Section from carrying out its statutory activities in the foreseeable future, in particular when national legislation stands in the way of the implementation of the fundamental principles set out in Part A of the International Statute;
 - c) when the Section has not paid its international dues for a period of two years and does not meet its financial obligations after being invited by letter to do so by the International Treasury;
 - d) when the Section fails to supply any Progress Reports or other information required by the PEB for a period of 2 years;
 - e) when the membership of a Section falls below the minimum of 50 members, as required by the Directive for the Foundation and Affiliation of National Sections;
 - f) when the Section so requests. The reason for the request need not be given.
2. Upon the recommendation of the PEB, the IEC shall appoint a Section to represent the interests of a Section which has been suspended - but without the right to vote on its behalf - and to seek the lifting of the suspension measure.
3. In exceptional circumstances, the PEB may impose an immediate suspension of a Section if a situation is considered to contravene Part A of the International Statute and the decision cannot wait for the next IEC meeting. Under these circumstances, the PEB shall immediately appoint another Section to represent the suspended Section, as required in IR, Article 5.2.

4. Once a Section is suspended, voting rights shall be lost; only observers may attend IPA World Congresses and IEC Conferences and expenses shall not be paid.
5. Members of a suspended Section shall continue to be treated as IPA members by the other Sections, admitted to events, and enjoy the same consideration, even if their membership card is no longer valid.
6. International posts or membership of International Commissions, held by members of a suspended Section, shall not be affected.
7. Suspended Sections shall continue to receive information, circulars and the like, provided their NEC is still operational.
8. Every case of suspension shall be reviewed at the following meeting of the IEC. To this end, the Section appointed to represent the interests of the suspended Section shall present a report. If the reason for the suspension still exists, the IEC may extend the period of suspension or consider expulsion of the Section in accordance with IS, Article 9.
9. Suspension may only be lifted by a decision of the IEC.
10. If suspension is to be lifted, the IEC shall, upon the recommendation of the PEB, first settle the question of any outstanding dues to be paid by the suspended Section.

Article 6 - Protection of the Emblems

1. The IPA emblems must not be utilised for commercial purposes.
2. Sections may authorise their Regional groups and members to use the emblems only under the above-mentioned expressed condition. When either emblem is used, the copyright symbol shall be displayed appropriately.
3. Any change made to the emblems jeopardises copyright protection and is therefore not permitted. Models of the two protected forms are kept by the International Secretary General.

Article 7 - Membership Cards

1. There shall be two types of membership card.
 - a) Linen blue card with the facility to adhere annual stamps,
 - b) Credit card style membership card, valid for one year only.

Each Section shall decide which membership card system they will use.

2. Only these standard international IPA membership cards, valid for the current year, are proof of membership in the Association.

3. The International Treasury shall be responsible for having the linen blue IPA membership cards printed. The Sections shall order their membership cards and year stamps from the International Treasury.

The International Treasury shall be responsible for providing the template for the credit card style membership card, in print ready format. Sections using this card shall then be responsible for the printing.

4. Membership cards shall show the member's name, section, membership number and year of joining the IPA, which must be in one of the official working languages. The reverse side of the card may contain other information as required by the Section. Each Section may also decide to have membership cards displaying a photograph of the member.
5. The cards remain the property of the issuing Section.
6. IPA membership cards not valid for the current year may be retained and returned to the issuing Section provided that they have been invalid for at least one year. This does not apply to members of suspended Sections (see IR, Article 5.5).

Article 8 - Representation

1. The National President shall represent the Section in the IEC as the IEC delegate and be the voting representative at IPA World Congresses and IEC Conferences.
2. As an IEC delegate, a National President may be represented at IPA World Congresses and IEC Conferences, in accordance with IR, Article 10.4.

Article 9 - Observers

Every Section may send no more than two observers, at its own cost, to IPA World Congresses and IEC Conferences.

C International Executive Council (IEC)

Article 10 - Meetings

1. The delegate from each Section, provided that Section is not suspended in accordance with IS, Article 8, shall be invited to attend IPA World Congresses and IEC Conferences at the expense of the Association.
2. The name and address of the delegate and observers of each Section shall be notified to the International Secretary General at least 90 days prior to the commencement of an IPA World Congress or IEC Conference.
3. Should the name and address of the delegate or any observers not be known 90 days prior to the commencement of an IPA World Congress or IEC Conference, then the number of persons intending to participate shall be provided by the deadline set out in IR, Article 10.2. The names and addresses shall then be supplied to the International Secretary General prior to the commencement of the meeting.

4. If the delegate is not the National President, as defined in IR, Article 8, applications are only valid if signed by the President and Secretary General of the Section.
5. Should a Section wish to be represented by another Section at an IPA World Congress or an IEC Conference, written notification to this effect must be delivered to the International Secretary General at least 90 days prior to the commencement of the meeting. Alternatively, notification may be delivered at any time prior to the commencement of the meeting, provided the Section being represented was already registered to attend in accordance with IR, Article 10.2. In either case, the notification is only valid if completed on the appropriate form and signed by the President and the Secretary General of the Section. The form must also bear the written consent of the President of the Section appointed to act as proxy.

Proxies are valid for all votes and elections at IPA World Congresses and IEC Conferences and cannot be restricted. Each delegate may represent at most one other Section.

6. Should unforeseen circumstances prevent the registered delegate from attending, the substitute sent in his place from the same Section must provide the PEB, before participating in the meeting, with a letter signed by the President of the Section, expressly designating him as delegate.
7. All notifications may be sent by fax. Notifications not requiring signatures may also be sent by e-mail (IR, Article 10.2 and 10.3 notifications only). Where the postal system is used, Sections should obtain proof of posting.

Article 11 - Loss of Voting Rights

Delegates not registered in accordance with IR, Article 10, and delegates of Sections that have not paid their International Levy as required in IS, Article 15.3, shall have no voting rights for the duration of the conference. In addition, travelling and hotel expenses in connection with the conference will not be paid.

Article 12 - Agenda

1. The draft agenda may only include motions that have been submitted in writing to the International Secretary General at least 90 days before the meeting. Motions must be justified and discussion points explained. Details of any financial implications must also be given.
2. Motions for revision of the International Statute must be submitted in writing to the International Secretary General at least 6 months before the IPA World Congress.
3. Motions for revision of the International Rules and Directives must be submitted in writing to the International Secretary General at least 4 months before the IPA World Congress or IEC Conference.

4. The agenda shall include reports from the
 - International Secretary General,
 - International Treasurer,
 - Internal Auditors,
 - International Commissions, and
 - Sections, as required by IR, Article 5.8.

These reports must reach the International Secretary General 90 days before the beginning of the meeting.

5. Motions for Affiliation of new Sections by the PEB must be specified individually under the last item on the agenda before "Any other Business".
6. 45 days before the beginning of an IPA World Congress or IEC Conference, the International Secretary General shall send all registered Sections the following documents and information in the required official working language:
 - draft agenda,
 - list of candidates for the PEB and Internal Auditors,
 - motions,
 - reports submitted, in accordance with IR, Article 12.4,
 - list of delegates,
 - list of observers, and
 - names of proxies, in accordance with IR, Article 10.5.
7. The agenda shall be adopted by the delegates at the beginning of the meeting.

Article 13 - Chairmanship

The International President, or in his absence his representative, shall chair IPA World Congresses and IEC Conferences.

Article 14 - Conduct of Meetings

The procedure at IPA World Congresses and IEC Conferences shall be conducted in accordance with the Directive for the Conduct of Meetings.

D. Permanent Executive Bureau (PEB)

Article 15 - Elections

1. Candidates for positions in the PEB shall be notified to the International Secretary General at least 90 days before an IPA World Congress. After the elapsing of the 90 day limit, no notification for offices in the PEB are permitted unless at the time of the elections there is no candidate for an office, in which case nominations for such office may be submitted by the IEC. Candidates may not be nominated or elected without their consent.
2. The election process shall be directed by a delegate or outgoing member of the PEB, to be chosen by the participants from their midst. He may appoint a suitable number of tellers to help him count the votes.

The election officer and the tellers may not be nominated as candidates and shall not be from the same Section as any of the nominated candidates.

3. The election of the PEB shall be conducted in the following order:
 - International President
 - First International Vice President
 - Second International Vice President
 - Third International Vice President
 - International Secretary General
 - Assistant International Secretary General
 - International Treasurer
 - Assistant International Treasurer.
4. Voting shall be by secret ballot. Ballot papers shall be distributed to delegates for each round of voting. Ballot papers shall be kept for one year from the date of the elections. If only one candidate is nominated for a position, voting may be done by a show of hands.
5. A candidate who obtains more than one half of the votes cast shall be considered elected.

If there are several candidates and none of them reaches this percentage, a run-off shall be organised between the two candidates with the highest number of votes.

Article 16 - Advisor

Once a new International President has been elected, the outgoing President may be appointed by the IEC to the PEB as Advisor until the end of the following IEC Conference. The Advisor shall have no voting rights.

Article 17 - Internal Auditors

1. Two Internal Auditors will be elected at the IPA World Congress. The procedures contained in IR, Articles 15.1, 15.4 and 15.5 shall apply to such elections.
2. They shall be responsible for examining the substantive accuracy of the income and expenditure of the International Treasury and ascertain that the accounts are in conformity with the International Statute, the Rules and the decisions of the IEC and PEB. They shall also submit a written report to the IEC at each IPA World Congress and IEC Conference.

Article 18 - Chairmanship and Alternates

1. The PEB shall meet at least once a year to review the administration of the Association. Between meetings, business shall be conducted by correspondence or by any other manner.
2. The International President shall chair meetings of the PEB and shall have a casting vote in the event of a tie.

3. The question of alternates shall be resolved as follows:-

- the International President shall be replaced by the International Vice Presidents in order of office.

- the International Secretary General and the International Treasurer by their deputies.

If a position falls vacant, the alternate shall stand in until the period of office expires.

Article 19 - International Administration Centre (IAC)

1. The PEB shall maintain an International Administration Centre (IAC).
2. The IAC shall be under the control of the International Secretary General and shall facilitate the work of the Association.
3. The PEB shall have responsibility for negotiating the lease, rent and employment contracts.
4. The report of the International Secretary General (IR, Article 12.4) shall also provide the IEC with information about the work of the IAC.

E. Other Regulations

Article 20 - Business Enterprises

The PEB, Sections and Regional groups are permitted to enter into contracts and agreements with any other organisation or business, provided that such organisations or businesses shall not have any control or influence over any part of the IPA.

Article 21 - Internal Affairs

1. Reports and minutes, which are considered internal under IS, Article 18.2, shall be marked with the word "internal" on each page, and at the end shall cite the decision by which that status was determined. The list of authorised recipients must be attached.
2. The status of reports and minutes shall be determined by the PEB, with the exception of reports submitted to the IEC, when the decision shall be taken by that body.
3. The status of documents fixed by Sections or their Regional groups shall be respected by all members of the Association.
4. Restricted status of documents should only be used in cases where publication could damage the Association.

Article 22 - Revision of the Rules and Directives

1. A revision of the Rules and Directives may only be decided at an IPA World Congress or IEC Conference with a two-thirds majority of all the votes of the Sections present or represented at the meeting.
2. Any amendment shall enter into force immediately after the closing of the IPA World Congress or IEC Conference.
3. Once a motion to amend the Rules has been placed before an IPA World Congress or IEC Conference, the same issue can not be discussed for a period of 3 years, unless to prevent or correct a contradiction with another Article within the International Statute and Rules.
4. All matters of interpretation arising in conjunction with the Rules and Directives shall be settled provisionally by the PEB pending a decision by the IEC.

Article 23 - Entry into Force

These International Rules were adopted by the 18th IPA World Congress, in Ljubljana, Slovenia and entered into force on 22 September 2006.

Amended September 2008, IEC Moscow, Russia.